

STRANGER THINGS

#401

THE HELLFIRE CLUB

**El is bullied at school. Joyce opens a mysterious package.
A scrappy player shakes up D&D night.**

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – DAY

Dogs bark in the background. A boy rides his bike down the street, tossing newspapers onto front steps. The boy rides his bike down the streets, tossing newspapers onto front steps. He passes a man running in the opposite direction, and a man sorting his rubbish bins out. The boy tosses a newspaper – it hits a rocking chair on the front step of a house and lands in the seat. He tosses another newspaper – it hits the front step of a house. He tosses another newspaper – it hits the back bumper of a car. He tosses another newspaper – it hits the front door of a house.

EXT. BRENNER HOUSE – FRONT YARD – DAY

A man opens the door and steps out, bending down to pick up the newspaper before turning around and walking back inside, shutting the door behind him.

INT. BRENNER HOUSE – KITCHEN – DAY

A kettle whistles. The man pours himself a cup of tea.

INT. BRENNER HOUSE – KITCHEN – DAY

The man sits down at the kitchen table, unfolding the newspaper. He winds a timer and sets it down beside him before starting the crossword. The timer dings. He sets his pencil down, having finished the crossword.

INT. BRENNER HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

The man snips a small chunk of leaves off a plant.

INT. BRENNER HOUSE – BATHROOM – DAY

The man shaves his face.

INT. BRENNER HOUSE – BED ROOM – DAY

The man opens his wardrobe and pulls out a suit.

INT. BRENNER HOUSE – BED ROOM – DAY

The man tightens his tie.

INT. BRENNER HOUSE – BED ROOM – DAY

The man stands in front of the mirror, his reflection unfocused. The man pulls on his jacket and looks at the mirror. His reflection focuses – it's Brenner.

SEPTEMBER 8, 1979

EXT. HAWKINS LAB – DAY

HAWKINS NATIONAL LABORATORIES

INT. HAWKINS LAB – RAINBOW ROOM – DAY

Sixteen and Seventeen use their powers to push toy cars around the bend in the rainbow on the floor, crawling after them. Four walks past them, holding an abstract model in her hands. Thirteen and Eighteen sit at a table, making spinning tops spin with their powers. Twelve walks past them and grabs two boxes of coloured pencils before turning to walk back to where he came from. He walks

past Fourteen, who plays with a large Plinko board. He walks past Nine and Fifteen, who play chess, before he sits back in his cubicle. Eleven sits in the cubicle next to him, colouring in. Four stands at a counter, sorting through counters. Five grabs a tray from inside the counter, moving around the counter to sit on a couch. Two sits on the other couch, sorting through blocks. Seven sits on the ground at the table in front of the couches, using her powers to move a marble through the table maze. An orderly watches them. Brenner opens the door and walks inside, looking around at the kids. Sixteen and Seventeen walk behind him, holding red foam blocks. Brenner spots Ten sitting on a bench, playing with a magic eight ball. He walks over to him.

BRENNER: That's your favourite, isn't it?

Brenner sits next to Ten with a sigh.

BRENNER (CONT'D): How are you feeling today?

TEN: Okay.

BRENNER: Are you up for some more lessons?

Ten looks at his magic eight ball and shakes it. He shows the answer to Brenner – 'SIGNS POINT TO YES'.

Brenner looks at the magic eight ball as he reads the answer, then looks at Ten.

INT. HAWKINS LAB – HALLWAY – DAY

Brenner holds Ten's hand as he leads him away from the Rainbow Room – '010' is branded onto Ten's wrist. They pass Dr. Ellis and Six as they walk back to the Rainbow Room.

DR. ELLIS: Afternoon, Dr. Brenner.

BRENNER: Dr. Ellis.

Brenner looks down at Ten, who looks up at him. They reach the end of the corridor and turn left – the door at the end of the corridor is labelled '11'.

INT. HAWKINS LAB – TESTING ROOM – DAY

Ten sits with an EEG on his head, his eyes closed. The EEG reader spits out paper with readings. Brenner sits on the opposite side of the table, a drawing pad in hand. He clears his throat before drawing a yellow sun on the paper.

BRENNER (CONT'D): Okay. What do you see?

Ten's eyes move under his eyelids. The image of the sun drawing flashes on screen for a split second, accompanied by a sharp screeching sound. The EEG reader spikes. Brenner shakes his head slightly.

BRENNER (CONT'D): Don't force it. Let it come to you. Just like we practiced.

TEN: It's...

The image of the sun flashes on screen again, for a little bit longer this time, still accompanied by a sharp screeching sound.

TEN (CONT'D): A yellow circle. The sun.

Brenner smiles.

BRENNER: Very good. Very good.

Brenner makes a note on a notepad on the table. He looks through the crayons on the table.

BRENNER (CONT'D): All right. Now, let's see...

Brenner draws a bad rendition of a dog in brown crayon.

BRENNER (CONT'D): Okay.

Brenner puts the crayon down.

BRENNER (CONT'D): Now what do you see?

TEN: A...cow?

Brenner's eyebrows furrow in confusion. He looks down at his drawing, which does indeed look like a cow. He looks up at Ten.

BRENNER: It's supposed to be a dog.

Ten smiles.

TEN: It looks like a cow.

Brenner chuckles.

BRENNER: It does, doesn't it? I never was much of an artist.

Brenner puts the drawing pad down on the table.

BRENNER (CONT'D): All right. Let's try something a little bit more challenging.

Brenner writes a few notes on the notepad. He checks his watch.

BRENNER (CONT'D): Is that all right with you?

Ten nods.

BRENNER (CONT'D): I want you to find Dr. Ellis. Can you do that?

Ten nods. His eyes move under his eyelids. The EEG reader spikes.

BRENNER (CONT'D): Have you found her?

TEN: (echoing) Yes.

BRENNER: What's she doing?

TEN: (echoing) Lessons with Six in his room.

BRENNER: What kind of lessons?

TEN: (echoing) Six is trying to move a block. A red block.

The EEG whirs. Brenner glances at it before continuing to write notes.

BRENNER: Can you hear what they're saying?

Ten's breathing quickens. The EEG reader moves rapidly.

TEN: Something's wrong.

BRENNER: If you've lost the visual, just let it go. Try to reorient.

INT. HAWKINS LAB – HALLWAY – DAY

There's blood on the floor. Someone screams.

INT. HAWKINS LAB – TESTING ROOM – DAY

Ten's breathing quickens. His eyes dart side to side under his eyelids. Brenner glances at the EEG reader, which continues to move rapidly.

TEN: They're screaming.

BRENNER: Why are they screaming?

INT. HAWKINS LAB – HALLWAY – DAY

There's blood on the floor.

INT. HAWKINS LAB – TESTING ROOM – DAY

The EEG reader continues to move rapidly. Ten's nose starts to bleed.

BRENNER (CONT'D): Ten?

An alarm outside the room starts wailing. Ten sits in his chair, shaking. Brenner gets up and walks over to the intercom on the far wall of the room.

BRENNER (CONT'D): Peter, Alec, what's going on out there?

MAN (ON INTERCOM): Sir, we've got a situation.

A gunshot can be heard over the intercom, followed by muffled screaming.

TEN: Six and Dr. Ellis...

Brenner turns around to see Ten looking at him. He looks scared.

TEN (CONT'D): Dead. They're both dead.

The sudden sound of a door being banged on makes Brenner look towards the door. A scream can be heard from the hallway. Brenner slowly walks towards the door. The screaming outside continues. There's silence for a moment. Brenner pauses. Another faint scream. The door suddenly flies off its hinges and blasts into the room.

Cut to black.

INT. HAWKINS LAB – TESTING ROOM – DAY

The EEG reader has fallen to the floor, spattered with blood. Brenner lays unconscious on the floor, a large gash on his face. He wakes with a start, panting. He squeezes his eyes shut and touches his forehead with a groan, slowly sitting up. The door lays on the ground, bent in half. Blood is spattered on the doorframe. The lights flicker. Brenner looks to his right to look at Ten. He crawls over to the boy, touching his chest. He's dead. Brenner gently lifts Ten's lifeless body into a sitting position, hugging him as tears well in his eyes. Screaming echoes from the hallway, and Brenner turns his head to look into it.

INT. HAWKINS LAB – HALLWAY – DAY

Brenner pulls himself up and starts walking through the hallway. Blood is spattered on the walls and floor. Guards and orderlies lie dead. Brenner looks into one of the kids' rooms, seeing him laying on his head with his limbs bent in odd directions. He's dead, blood coating the bedsheets. Brenner gasps and backs away, before continuing through the hallways. Everywhere he turns, there's blood and dead people. Kids lay in their beds, dead, their limbs bent in odd directions. A shrill scream sounds from the end of the hallway. Brenner looks towards the closed doors of the Rainbow Room. He walks towards it, using the walls to help keep his balance.

INT. HAWKINS LAB – RAINBOW ROOM – DAY

Brenner pushes the doors open and walks inside. His breathing quickens as he looks around, seeing blood and dead kids everywhere. Every kid has their limbs bent in odd directions. Brenner suddenly spots a kid standing at the far end of the wall, facing away from him, their body shaking as they breathe heavily. The window to the observation room is shattered, leaving jagged edges. There's a large crack in the wall in the observation room in front of the kid.

BRENNER: What have you done?

The kid turns around. It's Eleven, years before we first met her. Blood streams from her nose, eyes, and ears. She has blood smeared on her hospital gown. She stares Brenner down, breathing heavily as she takes a few steps forward.

BRENNER (CONT'D): What have you done?

Eleven breathes heavily.

Cut to black.

MAIN TITLES.

CHAPTER ONE: THE HELLFIRE CLUB.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – ELEVEN'S ROOM – DAY

Photos and posters hang on the walls. A box full of keepsakes from Hawkins sits open on the blanket box at the end of her bed. Eleven sits at her desk, painting a figurine of Hopper for her diorama. Her hair has grown longer during her time spent in California.

ELEVEN (O.S.): Dear Mike, today is day 185. Feels more like ten years. Joyce says time is funny like that. Emotions can make it speed up or slow down. We are all time travellers if you think about it. For example, this week is going very fast. I think because I am so busy. I have to make something called a visual aid.

Eleven carefully sets the Hopper figurine inside her diorama, outside the cabin made of paddle pop sticks.

ELEVEN (CONT'D)(O.S.): I hope Mrs. Gracey will give me an A.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – STUDY – DAY

Joyce sits at the desk, on the phone with a potential customer.

JOYCE: I can send you a previous edition as a loaner to see if you like the product before committing to purchasing it...

ELEVEN (O.S.): Some exciting news. Joyce got an amazing new job. She gets to work at home.

JOYCE: Yeah, I'm...I'm not a robot. You do realise that, don't you?

ELEVEN (O.S.): She says she loves the 'freedom'.

Joyce hangs up the call and de-extends the antenna.

JOYCE: Prick.

Joyce slams the phone onto the holder.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – WILL'S ROOM – DAY

Will stands in the corner of the room, painting something as it rests on an easel.

ELEVEN (O.S.): Will is painting a lot, but he...he won't show me what he's working on. Maybe it is for a girl. I think there is someone he likes, because he has been acting...

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – JONATHAN'S ROOM – DAY

There's a photo of him and Nancy on his beside table. Smoke fills the room.

ELEVEN (CONT'D)(O.S.): Weird. Jonathan is acting weird also. I think he is just nervous about college. He is still waiting for his big letter.

Jonathan coughs as he tries to wave smoke out the window.

ELEVEN (CONT'D)(O.S.): I hope he and Nancy get to go together.

JONATHAN: Damn it.

EXT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – FRONT YARD – DAY

Jonathan's car sits in the driveway, the hood covered in pinecones and pine needles.

ELEVEN (O.S.): But I don't know how he'll get to college because his car is still broken.

A pizza van drives behind Jonathan's car and pulls up in the other driveway. Argyle sits in the driver's seat, honking the horn.

ELEVEN (CONT'D)(O.S.): His funny friend Argyle has been taking us to school. His hair is longer than mine.

Argyle honks the horn over and over again.

ELEVEN (CONT'D)(O.S.): And he and Jonathan like to smoke smelly plants together.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – JONATHAN'S ROOM – DAY

Jonathan sees Argyle through the window and runs over to his backpack, which sits on the bed.

ELEVEN (CONT'D)(O.S.): Jonathan says the plants are super safe because they come from the earth...

Jonathan sees his bong sitting out in the open by the window, leaving his bag and running over to it. He frantically looks around for a place to store it, before deciding to hide it under his bed.

ELEVEN (CONT'D)(O.S.): But to not tell Joyce.

Jonathan gets up and grabs his bag, running out of his room.

EXT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – FRONT YARD – DAY

Will walks out, holding a large poster on Alan Turing. Eleven walks out, holding her diorama of the cabin. Jonathan walks out behind them.

ELEVEN (CONT'D)(O.S.): Me? I am twice as happy now.

INT. ARGYLE'S VAN

Will opens the side door, allowing Eleven to walk in and sit down. Will walks in and sits down beside her. Jonathan gets into the passenger side.

ELEVEN (CONT'D)(O.S.): You were right. It just takes time.

ARGYLE: All right.

Argyle turns around to look at Eleven and Will.

ARGYLE: Hold on to your butts, brochachos.

Argyle takes off, the tires squealing.

EXT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – FRONT YARD – DAY

Joyce runs out of the house.

ELEVEN (O.S.): I think I have finally adapted.

JOYCE: Slow down!

The pizza van rounds the corner, tires squealing, and takes off down the main road.

INT. ARGYLE'S VAN

Eleven looks out the window at the mountains outside.

ELEVEN (O.S.): At first, I missed all the spring flowers, but now I find it pretty here too.

EXT. LENORA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL – COURTYARD – DAY

Eleven and Will walk into school, both holding their visual aids. Jonathan and Argyle walk behind them.

ELEVEN (CONT'D)(O.S.): I even like school now. I am still best at math, but my grammar is getting good now also.

LENORA HILLS, CALIFORNIA

MARCH 21, 1986

The school bell rings.

INT. LENORA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL – HALLWAY – DAY

Eleven and Will walk down the hallway. A girl waves at Eleven as they walk towards each other, smiling.

ELEVEN (CONT'D)(O.S.): It helps that everyone is so nice here.

Eleven waves back, smiling. The girl looks at her strangely as she passes.

ELEVEN (CONT'D)(O.S.): I have made lots of friends.

Eleven looks behind her as the girl walks past, joining the friend she was actually waving at, who carries a Nikola Tesla poster. Eleven's smile fades, and she faces where she's walking. Eleven and Will turn a corner and continue walking.

ELEVEN (CONT'D)(O.S.): Even so, I am ready for spring break, mostly because I get to see you.

A large banner reading 'COUNTDOWN TO SPRING BREAK! ONLY...2 MORE DAYS!' is hung from the ceiling behind them. The S in 'DAYS' has a red cross drawn through it, and a boy climbs onto a ladder to pull the '2' down, revealing a '1' underneath.

INT. LENORA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL – CLASSROOM – DAY

It's filled with students chatting before class starts. Eleven and Will make their way into the room and towards their seats, navigating the students.

ELEVEN (CONT'D)(O.S.): I am so excited to see you, it is hard to breathe.

Eleven lifts the diorama above her head as she walks between two boys.

ELEVEN (CONT'D)(O.S.): Are you excited too? I think you will love it here like me.

Eleven tries to push past Stacey, who blocks the way while talking to Angela. Eleven takes a small stumble when she pushes past, almost dropping her diorama onto her desk. A girl laughs.

ELEVEN (CONT'D)(O.S.): I think I will have the best spring break ever.

Eleven slips her backpack onto the back of her chair and sits down with a sigh. She jumps slightly when a spitball hits her cheek, turning to see Jake holding a red straw. Both he and Angela laugh at Eleven. Eleven wipes the spitball off her cheek and looks forward. She sighs, looking as if she's trying not to cry.

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – MIKE'S ROOM – DAY

Mike lays on his bed, reading Eleven's letter.

ELEVEN (CONT'D)(O.S.): I hope my spelling was better this time. Miss you. Love, El.

Nancy pushes the door open.

NANCY: The hell are you doing? It's ten after.

MIKE: Oh, shit. Shit!

Mike fumbles, tossing the letter aside and getting up.

NANCY: You have thirty seconds or I'm leaving without you, okay?

Mike stands in front of his mirror, looking around. He's only wearing underwear, socks, and a tank top.

NANCY (CONT'D): Thirty seconds.

Nancy walks away. Mike bends down to rifle through the pile of clothes on his floor.

MIKE: Okay, I have to find my pants.

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – FOYER – DAY

Mike jumps onto the middle stair platform and walks down the rest of the stairs, rounding the corner and picking up his backpack on his way through the kitchen.

INT. WHEELER HOUSE – KITCHEN – DAY

Mike opens the pantry. Karen walks up to him. Ted leans against the counter, sipping a cup of tea.

KAREN: Michael, I know your D&D club is tonight.

MIKE: Hellfire.

Mike walks over to the toaster. Karen follows him.

TED: Why don't you just call it the High School Dropout Club?

KAREN: I want you home no later than 9 tonight, okay?

Mike puts a couple Pop Tarts in the toaster.

MIKE: I'll try.

Mike pushes the toaster button down.

KAREN: No trying. You need to go to bed early.

MIKE: Why?

TED: It's a 6:30 flight, Michael.

MIKE: Yeah, I know, but-

KAREN: No buts. Nine or no California.

TED: And no sweetie pie.

Mike makes a face.

NANCY (O.S.): Mike!

Mike looks up to see Nancy standing in front of the back door, a hand on her hip.

NANCY (CONT'D): Let's go.

Nancy shakes her keys.

MIKE: Jesus. How am I gonna survive a whole week without you guys?

Mike presses the button to make the Pop Tarts come out early. Mike grabs them and rounds the counter to follow Nancy through the back door. Karen follows him.

KAREN: Nine.

The door slams. Ted slowly joins Karen.

TED: Remind me, when do they become reasonable human beings again?

Karen sighs heavily.

EXT. HENDERSON HOUSE – FRONT YARD – DAY

A large antenna is fixed onto the roof on the far end of the house. Cables lead from the antenna and into the slightly ajar window of Dustin's room.

SUZIE (ON RADIO): That's a negative, Dusty-bun.

INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – DUSTIN'S ROOM – DAY

Dustin sits at his desk, radio receiver in his hand. He crosses off a word on his notepad.

DUSTIN: Son of a bitch. Try 'Tigers86'.

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE'S ROOM – DAY

Suzie sits at her desk in front of her computer. On the screen reads 'WELCOME TO ROANE COUNTY DISTRICT DATANET. PLEASE LOG IN WITH PASSWORD. PASSWORD:'. Further down are six options: (G) GOVERNMENT; (H) HEALTH SERVICES; (S) SCHOOL BOARD; (1) SHERIFF DEPARTMENT; (2) SEARCH & RESCUE; and (3) S.L.E.D. NET PORTAL.

SUZIE: 'Tigers86'. Copy that.

For 'PASSWORD', Suzie types in 'TIGERS86'. She presses enter. A new screen with a graphic of a tiger appears on screen. Three headings are up the top: DIRECTORY – which is highlighted in orange; FACULTY (pgDN); and LIBRARY (pgUP). Underneath the tiger are the words 'GO TIGERS!'. In the middle of the screen, there is a box. Above the box is 'WELCOME! HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT RECORDS'. Inside the box is 'PLEASE ENTER STUDENT NAME:'. A small box blinks on the second row of the main box, waiting for a name.

SUZIE (CONT'D): Jiminy Crickets, Dusty. I'm in.

INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – DUSTIN'S ROOM – DAY

DUSTIN: Holy shit.

A pounding at the door makes Dustin jump, wheeling away from his desk and almost falling over.

INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – HALLWAY – DAY

Claudia stands at the door.

CLAUDIA: Dusty, what's going on in there? You're gonna be late.

Claudia goes to slide the door open.

INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – DUSTIN'S ROOM – DAY

DUSTIN: Don't come in! I'm naked!

INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – HALLWAY – DAY

Claudia quickly backs away and slides the door shut.

INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – DUSTIN'S ROOM – DAY

Dustin leans over his desk.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): I'm running out of time here.

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE’S ROOM – DAY

SUZIE: Just hold your horsies, Dusty-bun.

Suzie types in ‘DUSTIN HENDERSON’.

INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – DUSTIN’S ROOM – DAY

Dustin twirls his pencil in his fingers, impatient.

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE’S ROOM – DAY

Suzie watches as Dustin’s records load onto the screen. The screen reads: ‘STUDENT NAME: DUSTIN HENDERSON. CLASS – GRADE. Dustin’s grades load: SCIENCE – A; MATH – A; HISTORY – B; ENGLISH – B; HOME ECONOMICS – A; SOCIAL STUDIES – B; LATIN – D-. A box blinks over the ‘D’ in ‘D-’.

INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – DUSTIN’S ROOM – DAY

DUSTIN: Do you see it?

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE’S ROOM – DAY

SUZIE: Yeah, I see it.

A box blinks over the ‘D’ in ‘D-’.

SUZIE (CONT’D): Yikes, Dusty.

INT. HENDERSON HOUSE – DUSTIN’S ROOM – DAY

DUSTIN: Yeah.

INT. BINGHAM HOUSE – SUZIE’S ROOM – DAY

Suzie turns to look at a small statue of Jesus that sits on her shelf, a sticker on it reading ‘IT’S OK **NOT** TO DRINK’. Suzie sighs.

SUZIE: I will repent later.

Suzie turns back to her computer and presses the ‘A’ key on her keyboard.

EXT. HAWKINS ROAD – DAY

Steve’s car drives along.

INT. STEVE’S CAR

Steve drives the car, wearing his Family Video uniform. Robin sits in the passenger seat, using the mirror in the visor to do her makeup, not paying much attention to Steve. Her band uniform sits in the back seat.

STEVE: And then there’s Heidi tomorrow night, but the problem with Heidi is that she’s going out of state for college. So it’s like, do I want to start another relationship that has no point other than sex? I mean, I just...I don’t know. Does that make sense to you? Robin, are you listening?

ROBIN: Uh, yes. I’m...I’m...

STEVE: What did I just say? What did I just say?

ROBIN: Something about sex with...with Linda.

STEVE: No, I'm talking about Heidi.

ROBIN: Cut me some slack, please.

STEVE: Well-

ROBIN: Your love life is one of labyrinthine complexity. And it is 7 in the morning, we have to go to the stupid pep rally...

STEVE: Oh.

ROBIN: And I woke up looking like a total corpse.

STEVE: Oh, you're worried about a basketball pep rally? You expect me to believe that?

ROBIN: Yeah? So?

STEVE: So we both know what this is about, okay? Not buying that bullshit. This is about Vickie.

ROBIN: Absolutely not.

STEVE: Yes, it is. And you know what else I think?

ROBIN: Uh, I really don't care-

STEVE: I think you gotta stop pretending to be someone else when you're around her, okay? You just gotta be yourself.

ROBIN: You're literally quoting me to me. You do realise that.

STEVE: Well, maybe you need to listen to yourself. Ever think about that, smarty pants? I listened to you, and now look at me. Boom. Back in business.

ROBIN: It's not the same thing. Okay?

STEVE: Well...

ROBIN: You ask out a girl and she says no. Big deal. Nothing happens. Maybe your ego's a little bruised. But I ask out the wrong girl and bam, I'm a town pariah.

STEVE: Yeah, I'd buy that, except Vickie is definitely not the wrong girl.

ROBIN: We just don't know that, do we?

Robin sprays some breath spray into her mouth. She makes a noise, disgusted by the taste.

STEVE: She returned Fast Times paused at 53 minutes, 5 seconds. Do you know who pauses Fast Times at 53 minutes, 5 seconds?

Robin shakes her head.

STEVE (CONT'D): People who like boobies, Robin.

ROBIN: Ew! Gross. Don't say boobies.

Steve: Boobies. It's not a big deal, okay? I like boobies. You like boobies. Vickie likes boobies. Definitely.

Robin shakes her head in disbelief.

STEVE (CONT'D): It's boobies.

EXT. HAWKINS SCHOOL – CAR PARK – DAY

Students litter the carpark. Steve drives down the driveway to the carpark. Robin gets out.

MS. KELLEY (O.S.): To the gym, everyone.

ROBIN: Hey, wait up!

Robin goes to get her band uniform from the back seat. The camera pans away from Robin and Steve and into the crowd of students.

MS. KELLEY (O.S.): Pep rally! Pep rally!

A few students walk past Ms. Kelley as she directs them to the gym.

MS. KELLEY (CONT'D): Kyle, good to see you. Hey, Josh. To the gym, everyone. To the gym.

The camera pans away from Ms. Kelley and towards the school bus.

MS. KELLEY (CONT'D)(O.S.): Go support your Tigers! Go, Tigers!

Max steps down from the bus and heads in the direction of the gym, listening to music.

MS. KELLEY (CONT'D)(O.S.): To the gym! Hi, Amber. Max! Max!

Max stops walking and turns to see Ms. Kelley running up to her. She takes her headphones off.

MS. KELLEY (CONT'D): Where were you yesterday?

MAX: Oh, yeah. Sorry, I forgot it was Thursday.

MS. KELLEY: Well, I'd like to see you today. Come straight after lunch, okay?

Max gives a small nod and turns to walk towards the gym, putting her headphones back on.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – DAY

The marching band plays as the cheer squad does a routine. A small group at the back is doing stunts, while the rest of the squad is dancing in front. Chrissy stands in the middle. Students and teachers fill the bleachers, cheering them on. The tiger mascot hypes up the crowd. Chrissy moves forward, shaking her pom poms. Vickie and Robin stand next to each other in the band section, playing their respective instruments. Robin sneaks a look at Vickie, who looks back at her. Robin looks away. Dustin and Mike stand next to each other in the bleachers, half-heartedly clapping. Max squeezes through the crowd to join them.

DUSTIN: Look, I'm not saying that my girlfriend is better than yours. It's just that Suzie's, like, a certified genius.

MIKE: You do realise El has saved the world twice, right?

DUSTIN: And yet you still have a C in Spanish.

In the cheer squad, a boy does a multitude of back handsprings, signifying the end of the routine. The band stops playing and join the crowd in cheering. The cheer squad moves to sit in front of the bleachers.

ANNOUNCER: And let's hear it for your Tigers!

In the corner of the gym, two boys hold up a large sign that reads 'HAWKINS TIGERS ALL THE WAY!', with a large orange clawed paw print in the middle and 'HHS '86' on either side. The basketball team runs through the sign, lead by Jason. Cheers go up from the crowd as the team runs in, the marching band playing a new tune. Jason stands behind the microphone set up in front of the large sign reading 'HAWKINS TIGERS CAN'T BE BEAT' that rests between a few balloon pillars. The rest of the team stands on either side. Lucas looks excited to be there, looking into the crowd. Dustin, Mike, and Max barely react upon seeing him.

JASON: Good morning, Hawkins High!

The crowd cheers. Jason takes the microphone off the stand and walks away from it.

JASON (CONT'D): First off...hey. First off, I'd like to thank each and every one of you. Without your support, we wouldn't be here. Give yourselves a big hand.

The crowd cheers and applauds. Lucas looks into the crowd as he claps, spotting Max slowly clapping. She stops when she sees him looking at her. Lucas smiles and gives a small wave. Max stares at him before looking away. Lucas' smile fades and he lowers his hand.

JASON (CONT'D): And of course, of course, I have to give a special shout-out to the best and the prettiest fans of all time, the Tiger Cheer Squad.

The crowd cheers. Jason and Chrissy smile at each other.

STUDENT: Yeah!

JASON: Chrissy...

Jason pats his chest.

JASON (CONT'D): Chrissy, I love you, babe.

Chrissy blows Jason a kiss. The crowd awws. A more serious expression crosses Jason's face.

JASON (CONT'D): You know...I think I can speak for all of us when I say it's been a tough year for Hawkins. So much loss. And sometimes I wonder, 'how much loss can one community take?' In dark days like this, we need something to believe in. So, last night, when we were down by ten points at half to Christian Academy, I looked at my team, and I said, 'think of Jack. Think of Melissa. Think of Heather. Think of Billy'.

Lucas looks at Max. She looks at him before looking down, uncomfortable.

JASON (CONT'D): 'Think about our heroic police chief, Jim Hopper. Think about every one of our friends who perished in that fire. What did they die for? For us to lose to some...some crap school? No'.

CROWD: No!

JASON: 'For us to return home with our heads hung low in defeat? No!'

CROWD: No!

JASON: 'No. Let's win this game. Let's win this game for them'. And that's exactly what we did!

The crowd cheers. Dustin, Mike, and Max don't cheer. Mike shakes his head.

JASON (CONT'D): We embarrassed those candy-asses in their own house, and now tonight, tonight, we're gonna bring home the championship trophy!

The crowd cheers.

JASON (CONT'D): Let's go!

The other players join Jason, clapping and cheering. Mike and Dustin look at each other.

MIKE: Tonight?

DUSTIN: How is that possible?

MAX: They call it a tournament. You win one game, you go on to play the next until there's only one team left.

Dustin looks annoyed. Mike looks at Lucas as he high-fives his teammates.

EXT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – UNDERCOVER WALKWAY – DAY

Mike, Lucas, and Dustin walk along a walkway.

LUCAS: I don't get the big deal. Just talk to Eddie. Get him to move Hellfire to another night.

DUSTIN: 'Just talk to Eddie'.

MIKE: Why don't you just talk to your coach and get him to move the game?

DUSTIN: I think that's a great idea, Mike.

MIKE: Thank you, Dustin.

LUCAS: This is the championship game.

DUSTIN: And this is the end of Eddie's campaign. A semester of adventuring has led to this moment, and we need you.

MIKE: Yeah, and the Tigers don't. You've been on the bench all year.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – HALLWAY – DAY

The boys turn the corner into the school and walk down the hallway towards their classrooms.

LUCAS: That's not the point.

DUSTIN: Please, arrive at the point.

LUCAS: If I get in good with these guys, I'll be in the popular crowd, and then you guys will be too.

MIKE: Has it ever occurred to you that we don't want to be popular?

The boys stop outside Lucas' classroom.

LUCAS: So you want to be stuck with the nerds and freaks for three more years?

DUSTIN: We are nerds and freaks.

LUCAS: Yeah, but maybe we don't have to be.

Mike and Dustin share a quick look.

LUCAS (CONT'D): Look, I'm tired of being bullied. I'm tired of girls laughing at us. I'm tired of feeling like a loser. We came to high school wanting things to be different. Right?

Mike and Dustin give small nods.

LUCAS (CONT'D): So now we have that chance. I skip tonight, that's all out the window. So I'm asking you guys, as a friend, just talk to Eddie. Get him to move Hellfire. Come to my game. Please.

Mike and Dustin don't say anything, and Lucas looks disappointed. The bell rings. Lucas turns around and walks into his classroom. Dustin looks a little nervous, and Mike stares at him.

DUSTIN: Shit.

EXT. LENORA HILLS ROAD – DAY

A mail truck drives down the road.

EXT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – FRONT YARD – DAY

The mail truck pulls up outside the Byers house. The postman gets out of the truck and gets into the back of it, pulling out his satchel and rifling through a pile of mail. We see a large box labelled for Joyce, and it has a multitude of stamps on it.

JOYCE (O.S.): Mrs. Ergenbright, let me ask you something.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – STUDY – DAY

Joyce sits at the desk, talking on the phone.

MRS. ERGENBRIGHT (ON PHONE): Mmm-hmm.

JOYCE: Have you ever wished you could have the answer to any question, right at your fingertips?

MRS. ERGENBRIGHT (ON PHONE): Oh, gosh.

Joyce chuckles.

JOYCE: Yes. It's just like those...those big fancy books you see on TV.

MRS. ERGENBRIGHT (ON PHONE): Oh, yes, they're lovely.

The doorbell rings. Joyce gets up and heads towards the front door.

JOYCE: Yeah, just imagine, you'd never have to go to the library again. Or, hey, think of the money that you'll save on gas alone.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – FOYER – DAY

Joyce opens the door, covering the receiver. The postman holds the big box, and has envelopes stacked on top of it.

MRS. ERGENBRIGHT (ON PHONE): Oh, good point.

JOYCE: Anything?

The postman shakes his head.

POSTMAN: Nothing.

Joyce puts the phone between her head and her shoulder as she grabs the box, looking a little confused.

POSTMAN (CONT'D): But these acceptance letters tend to come end of week just to make you sweat.

JOYCE: Well, I'm sweating.

POSTMAN: It's coming, Mrs. Byers. Don't you worry.

JOYCE: I always worry. Thanks.

The postman turns and walks away. Joyce kicks the door shut.

MRS. ERGENBRIGHT (ON PHONE): Oh, gosh. Did I lose you? Hello?

JOYCE: No, sorry. Carol? Can I call you Carol?

MRS. ERGENBRIGHT (ON PHONE): Yeah, of...of course.

Joyce makes her way through the house to the kitchen.

JOYCE: Great. So, what are we thinking? We could do volumes A through C, or we could do the...the whole alphabet.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – KITCHEN – DAY

Joyce sets the box down on the kitchen bench. She pushes the envelopes aside to look at the stamps, then pushes them off completely when she realises what they are.

MRS. ERGENBRIGHT (ON PHONE): Well, uh, remind me how much money...

The top right hand corner of the box has a multitude of Russian stamps stuck onto it.

MRS. ERGENBRIGHT (CONT'D)(ON PHONE): I can't remember-

JOYCE: Carol, uh, can I call you back?

MRS. ERGENBRIGHT (ON PHONE): Oh, sure.

Joyce hangs up the phone and sets it down beside her. She runs her hands over the stamps.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – KITCHEN – DAY

Joyce opens a drawer and pulls out scissors, using them to cut the twine around the package. She stabs the scissors into the middle of the package and runs them from left to right, cutting the paper open. She rips the box's lid open and reaches inside, pulling out a babushka doll. She stares at it in confusion, turning it over. Her eyes drift to the stamps on the paper.

EXT. LENORA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL – COURTYARD – DAY

A few students walk the courtyard. An American flag waves in the wind.

ANGELA (O.S.): After learning to speak, she travelled the world to spread her message.

INT. LENORA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL – CLASSROOM – DAY

Angela stands in front of the class. An image of Helen Keller is projected onto the screen.

ANGELA (CONT'D): And along the way, changed how the world perceived those like her with disabilities.

The image changes to another Helen Keller image.

ANGELA (CONT'D): And that is why I have chosen Helen Keller as my hero.

The image changes to a screen reading 'THE END'. The class claps. Mrs. Gracey moves from her spot to the door.

MRS. GRACEY: That was wonderful work, Angela.

Mrs. Gracey flicks the lights back on.

MRS. GRACEY (CONT'D): Truly wonderful. What an inspiring story.

Mrs. Gracey moves to the front of the classroom.

MRS. GRACEY (CONT'D): Okay. Now let's see who has to follow that.

Mrs. Gracey slips her glasses on and pulls a piece of paper out of a bowl, unfolding it.

MRS. GRACEY (CONT'D): Jane.

Eleven looks nervous. There's a reluctant clapping. Eleven looks at Will, who looks at her with encouragement. Eleven stands up, grabbing her diorama and walking to the front of the classroom. She looks at the class, nervous.

ELEVEN: Hi.

No one says anything.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): For my hero, I...I chose my dad.

Angela makes a small face. Jake and Stacey share a look. Other students whisper to each other.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): And for my visual aid...

Eleven turns her diorama around for the class to see.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): I made a 'diorama' of our cabin.

JAKE: More like diarrhea.

The class laughs. Eleven gives a small chuckle.

MRS. GRACEY: Quiet, everyone. Let's be respectful.

Eleven picks up the figurine of Hopper.

ELEVEN: This is my dad. His name is Hopper.

Will's eyes widen slightly when something touches his lower leg.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): He made the best Eggos, and...

Eleven chuckles. Will looks to his right to see a girl smiling wryly at him, her foot touching his leg and pushing his pant leg up slightly.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): We liked to watch Miami Vice on Fridays.

Will looks uncomfortable and pulls his leg away. The girl makes a slightly annoyed face and looks away, sitting up straight. Eleven puts the figurine of Hopper down and picks up the figurine of Mr. Fibbly.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): This is Mr. Fibbly. He is a squirrel.

Angela snorts. There's scattered laughter from the class.

JAKE: What?

Eleven's small smile fades. She looks at Will, who gives her a nod of encouragement. Eleven puts the figurine of Mr. Fibbly down.

ELEVEN: And this is the alarm that my dad made.

Angela puts her hand up.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): I...I was never scared because...

Eleven trails off when she sees Angela's hand and her fake sweet smile.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): Beca-because...

Eleven turns to look at Mrs. Gracey, unsure.

MRS. GRACEY: Uh, Angela, let's save questions until the end of Jane's presentation.

Angela lowers her hand.

ANGELA: Yeah. Sorry. I'm just, like, confused. I thought this was a presentation about a historical hero.

ELEVEN: My dad was in the newspaper.

ANGELA: Your local paper?

The class laughs. Will tries to give Eleven an encouraging look. Eleven tries not to cry.

ANGELA (CONT'D): I just don't think that's what Mrs. Gracey meant by historical. This is supposed to be about famous people.

ELEVEN: My dad is famous. He...he saved lots of lives.

Eleven grips the sides of her diorama.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): In a mall fire.

The class is silent.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): He was a hero for people. And he was my hero too.

ANGELA: That's not what I'm saying at all, but it's okay. I am so sorry, Mrs. Gracey. I didn't mean to interrupt. I just wanted clarity on the rules of the assignment.

MRS. GRACEY: Well, technically, you are correct, but Jane has decided to do her father.

Eleven tries not to cry, but she's close to it.

MRS. GRACEY (CONT'D): So, please, continue with your presentation, Jane.

Eleven takes a few shuddering breaths. A tear rolls down her cheek.

INT. LENORA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL – HALLWAY – DAY

The bell rings, and the history classroom door is opened. Eleven walks out and starts walking away from the classroom, followed by Will.

WILL: El, it wasn't that bad.

ELEVEN: Friends don't lie.

WILL: I'm not lying. El. Come on.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – HALLWAY – DAY

Max walks down the hallway, listening to Running Up That Hill (Deal With God) by Kate Bush on her Walkman. The hallway is filled with students.

KATE BUSH (ON WALKMAN): (singing) It didn't hurt me...yeah, yeah...do you wanna feel how it feels? Yeah, yeah, yeah...if I only could, I'd make a deal with God...

Max walks past a group of girls, glancing at them as she walks past.

KATE BUSH (CONT'D)(ON WALKMAN): (singing) And I'd get him to swap our places...

Max walks past a basketball player and a cheerleader kissing.

KATE BUSH (CONT'D)(ON WALKMAN): (singing) Be running up the road...be running up that hill...be running up that building...

Max walks towards Lucas as he gets stuff from his locker, talking to Patrick. He spots her when he looks at Patrick, and the pair hold each other's gaze.

KATE BUSH (CONT'D)(ON WALKMAN): (singing) Say if I only could...oh...

Max looks away from Lucas as she turns a corner in the hallway, walking away from him.

KATE BUSH (CONT'D)(ON WALKMAN): (singing) Yeah, yeah, yeah...tell me we both matter, don't we? You...

Chrissy walks out of Ms. Kelley's office and walks down the hallway towards Max. She hugs her waist with one arm and fidgets with her collar with the other.

KATE BUSH (CONT'D)(ON WALKMAN): (singing) If I only could...

Max looks at Chrissy as she walks past her.

KATE BUSH (CONT'D)(ON WALKMAN): (singing) I'd make a deal with God...and I'd get him to swap our places...

Max looks forward.

KATE BUSH (CONT'D)(ON WALKMAN): (singing) Be running up that road...

Max glances down the hallway as she turns into Ms. Kelley's office.

KATE BUSH (CONT'D)(ON WALKMAN): (singing) Be running up that hill...be running up that building...

Max closes the door behind her.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – MS. KELLEY'S OFFICE – DAY

Ms. Kelley sits behind her desk. Max sits in front of the desk, fidgeting with the Walkman's cord and bouncing her foot.

KATE BUSH (CONT'D)(ON WALKMAN): (singing) Say, if I only could...

MS. KELLEY: (muffled) Can you remove your headphones, please?

Max puts the headphones around her neck and reaches down to her Walkman to stop the song.

MAX: Sorry.

Ms. Kelley looks at her notes.

MS. KELLEY: A C in English and a C-minus in Spanish.

Ms. Kelley looks at Max.

MAX: Yeah.

MS. KELLEY: Well, that's not normal for you.

MAX: If you say so.

Max fidgets with the Walkman cord.

MS. KELLEY: How's your mum holding up?

MAX: She's fine. I mean, she hates our new place, which is, like...yeah, it's terrible, but...she's fine.

MS. KELLEY: Is she still drinking?

Max shifts in her chair.

MAX: Like, yeah, a little, but...well, she's working two jobs. So, it's not easy.

MS. KELLEY: It must not be easy for you either with your stepdad gone.

MAX: It's kind of better, honestly.

MS. KELLEY: Better how?

MAX: He was an asshole. So, there's less...assholery.

MS. KELLEY: Are you sleeping better?

Max shrugs.

MAX: Yeah, fine.

MS. KELLEY: So no more headaches?

Max shakes her head.

MS. KELLEY (CONT'D): Nightmares?

FLSHBCK – INT. STARCOURT MALL – FOOD COURT – NIGHT

Billy is partially suspended in the air by the Spider Monster's tendrils latching onto his side. The Spider Monster plunges a tendril into Billy's chest.

MAX: Billy!

The Spider Monster pulls its mouth tendril out of Billy's chest, making him grunt. He spits up blood. The tendrils leave his body, and he falls to the side, landing on his back.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – MS. KELLEY'S OFFICE – DAY

Max clenches her jaw slightly.

MAX (CONT'D): Nope.

MS. KELLEY: Max?

Max glances at her before avoiding eye contact.

MS. KELLEY (CONT'D): What you've been through, what you're still going through, it's a lot for anyone. And it's okay to not be okay. But I can only help you if you're truthful, if you open up to me.

MAX: Yeah, I...I know. I'm...I'm being open.

Ms. Kelley looks at Max in a way that says 'I don't believe that'.

MAX (CONT'D): I'm being open.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – HALLWAY – DAY

Max opens Ms. Kelley's door and walks out, quickly walking down the hallway. She doesn't notice Lucas leaning against the opposite wall, moving to put her headphones on. Lucas pushes off the wall and follows her.

LUCAS: Max, hey.

Max stops briefly to see Lucas there, then turns back and keeps walking.

MAX: Are you stalking me or something?

LUCAS: Oh, no, I...I just wanted to give you this.

Lucas holds out a ticket as they round the corner. Max takes it but doesn't look at it.

MAX: What is this?

LUCAS: A ticket to the game.

Max gives Lucas a look.

LUCAS (CONT'D): I know you never want to go to my games, but this one is kind of a big deal.

They round another corner. Max glances at the ticket in her hand as she keeps walking, not looking at Lucas as he trails after her.

MAX: A big deal? Lucas, you really care about this?

LUCAS: Yeah, I...I do. Maybe you should find something to care about too.

Max stops walking. She whips around.

MAX: What the hell is that supposed to mean?

LUCAS: Uh...you're just...

Max waits for an answer.

LUCAS (CONT'D): It's...it's like you're not even here anymore. It's...it's like you're a ghost or something.

MAX: A ghost? Really?

LUCAS: Max, I know something's wrong.

MAX: Yeah, right. Something must be wrong with me because I broke up with you.

LUCAS: No.

Lucas shakes his head.

LUCAS (CONT'D): No, that's...that's not what I meant.

MAX: Lucas, look, people just change, okay? That's it. I've changed. It's that simple.

Max goes to open the bathroom door beside her but stops. She turns and gives the ticket back to Lucas.

MAX (CONT'D): Good luck.

Max walks into the bathroom, leaving Lucas in the hallway. He looks down at the ticket.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GIRLS' BATHROOM – DAY

Max grips the sink as she leans over it, breathing shakily. She looks at herself in the mirror before slipping her bag off her shoulder and resting it on the sink. She rifles through the front pocket and pulls out a bottle of Tylenol, shaking a few into her hand before tossing them back and swallowing them. She puts the bottle back into her bag and zips the pocket up. As she goes to put her bag back on, the sound of a girl coughing in one of the stalls can be heard. Max turns to look in the direction of the noise and we see Chrissy hunched over the toilet, the sole of her toe visible just inside the stall as she vomits into the toilet.

MAX (CONT'D): Hey, are you all right?

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GIRLS' BATHROOM – STALL – DAY

Chrissy lifts her head up.

CHRISSY: Yeah...yes, I'm...

Chrissy wipes her mouth.

CHRISSY (CONT'D): I'm fine.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GIRLS' BATHROOM – DAY

Max looks around before taking a few steps towards the stall.

MAX: Okay, um...you're sure?

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GIRLS' BATHROOM – STALL – DAY

CHRISSY: Please, just go away.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GIRLS' BATHROOM – DAY

Max stands there, looking unsure. After a few moments, she turns and leaves the bathroom.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GIRLS' BATHROOM – STALL – DAY

Chrissy flushes the toilet as the bathroom door closes. There's a pounding on the door.

CHRISSY (CONT'D): Are you deaf? I said go away.

MRS. CUNNINGHAM: (echoing) Chrissy?

Chrissy's eyebrows furrow in confusion. She slowly turns to face the door of the stall, still kneeling beside the toilet.

MRS. CUNNINGHAM (CONT'D): (echoing) Chrissy?

CHRISSY: Mum?

MRS. CUNNINGHAM: (echoing) You ready to try on the dress again? I loosened the back a little for you.

Chrissy starts to look scared, turning so she's sitting leaning against the toilet. The lights flicker. There's a wet squelching of footsteps, and Chrissy looks below the door to see an ugly pair of feet arrive outside the door.

MRS. CUNNINGHAM (CONT'D): (echoing) Chrissy!

Chrissy screams, backing away from the door. She pushes herself against the wall, wedged between the back of the toilet and the divider to the next stall.

MRS. CUNNINGHAM (CONT'D): (echoing) Did you hear me?

The door starts to shake, a force trying to push it open.

MRS. CUNNINGHAM (CONT'D): (echoing) Open the goddamn door, Chrissy...

Chrissy screams.

MRS. CUNNINGHAM (CONT'D): (echoing, distorted) Or I'm gonna gut you like the fat pig that you are.

Chrissy covers her ears and squeezes her eyes shut.

CHRISSY: Go away! Go away! Go away!

MRS. CUNNINGHAM: (echoing, distorted) Did you hear me?

CHRISSY: Go away!

The door continues to shake violently.

CHRISSY (CONT'D): Go away! Go away! Go away! Go away!

MRS. CUNNINGHAM: (echoing, distorted) Can you hear me?

The door shakes violently. A screw on the latch comes loose and falls out. The shaking suddenly stops, along with the flickering lights. Chrissy pants. She opens her eyes and looks around, finding the normal stall. She slowly moves to get up.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GIRLS' BATHROOM – DAY

Chrissy opens the stall door and looks out, before taking a few small steps into the bathroom. She stands in the bathroom, staring at the door.

EDDIE (O.S.): (deep voice) 'The devil has come to America'.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – CAFETERIA – DAY

Students eat lunch and mill around the cafeteria. Eddie, Gareth, Jeff, and Freak sit at the end of a table. Eddie reads a D&D article from a Newsweek magazine, holding it high and partially obscuring his face.

EDDIE (CONT'D): 'Dungeons and Dragons, at first regarded as a harmless game of make-believe, now has both parents and psychologists concerned. Studies have linked violent behaviour to the game, saying it promotes satanic worship, ritual sacrifice, sodomy, suicide, and even...'

Eddie slaps the magazine onto the table.

EDDIE (CONT'D): 'Murder'.

The quad laugh. Across the cafeteria, Dustin and Mike watch them, holding their trays of food.

DUSTIN: Shit, he seems really revved up today.

MIKE: He's always revved up. We'll just...act casual.

DUSTIN: Casual.

MIKE: Casual.

DUSTIN: Right, okay.

Mike and Dustin take deep breaths before moving towards Eddie's table.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Totally.

Mike and Dustin set their trays down on the table before sitting down. Eddie sits with his arms crossed.

FREAK: Society has to blame something. We're an easy target.

EDDIE: Exactly. We're the freaks because we like to play a fantasy game. But...

Eddie stands up and gets onto the table.

EDDIE (CONT'D): As long as you're into band...

Eddie begins to walk along the table.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Or science... (sneeringly) or parties...

A boy from the party table flips Eddie off.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Or a game where you toss...

Eddie cups his hands around his mouth, using them as a megaphone.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Balls into laundry baskets...

Jason pushes his chair back.

STUDENT: Loser!

JASON: You want something, freak?

Eddie puts his hands against his hand, pointing his fingers up to represent horns, and makes a little demon noise. He chuckles. Jason glares at him. Of the boys, Dustin is the only one impressed by Eddie's gesture, giggling. Mike and Freak look at Eddie with confused expressions. Eddie lowers his hands, grinning. Jason turns to sit down.

JASON (CONT'D): Prick.

Eddie turns and starts walking back to his seat, still standing on the table.

EDDIE: It's forced conforming. That's what's...

Eddie does a little run and jumps down from the table, scaring a girl walking past.

EDDIE (CONT'D): (shouting) Killing the kids!

The boys laugh. Eddie takes a step back and gestures for a pair of cheerleaders to pass in front of him, smiling smugly.

EDDIE (CONT'D): That's the real monster.

Eddie sits down and starts eating pretzels.

DUSTIN: So, uh, speaking of monsters, uh...

Eddie looks at Dustin.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Lucas has to do his, uh...balls-in-laundry-baskets game. So...

Dustin chuckles awkwardly.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): He's not gonna be able to make it to Hellfire tonight.

Dustin gives a small shrug. Eddie starts to look annoyed.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): And I know there's no way we can beat your sadistic campaign without him. So, me and Mike, we were talking, shooting the shit, and we were thinking that may-maybe we might...

Mike looks irritated by Dustin's dancing around the subject.

MIKE: Postpone.

Gareth, Jeff, and Freak immediately protest.

JEFF: Whoa!

GARETH: Postpone? You can't just drop this on us!

FREAK: Over my dead body.

EDDIE: Shut up!

The boys immediately stop talking. Gareth lets out a small groan, annoyed.

EDDIE (CONT'D): You saying Sinclair's been taken in by the dark side?

MIKE: Uh...something like that.

Eddie throws a pretzel at Mike, making him shield his head as the pretzel hits him and breaks.

EDDIE: Something like that?

DUSTIN: Jesus Christ.

EDDIE: And rather than find a sub for him, you want...you want to postpone 'The Cult of Vecna'?

MIKE: I...I don't want to postpone it. We don't want to postpone it. It's just that...

Eddie makes an annoyed face and pushes his chair back, standing up and turning his back to the table.

MIKE (CONT'D): You know, most of the subs will be at the championship game.

Eddie whips around.

EDDIE: Oh, it's the championship game?

MIKE: (nervously) Yeah.

EDDIE: Can I level with you?

Eddie slowly walks towards the centre of the cafeteria, walking behind Jeff and Gareth as he looks over at Dustin and Mike.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Jeff graduates this year. Gareth's got, what? A year and a half? Me, I am army-crawling my way toward a D in Ms. O'Donnell's. And if I don't blow her final, I'm gonna walk that stage next month...

Eddie does a little bouncy walk, making the boys smile and chuckle.

EDDIE (CONT'D): I'm gonna look Principal Higgins dead in the eye, I'm gonna flip him the bird...

Eddie raises his middle finger with one hand.

EDDIE (CONT'D): I'm gonna snatch that diploma.

Eddie makes a snatching movement with his other hand. Eddie moves from side to side.

EDDIE (CONT'D): And I'm gonna run like hell outta here.

Eddie runs away from the table. Dustin laughs.

GARETH: Didn't you say that last year?

JEFF: And the year before that?

Eddie walks back to the table.

EDDIE: Yeah, yeah, and I was full of shit. This year's different. This year is my year. I can feel it.

Eddie grins at the boys.

EDDIE (CONT'D): '86, baby.

The boys chuckle.

EDDIE (CONT'D): And you know what that means?

Mike and Dustin shake their heads. Eddie walks towards them.

EDDIE (CONT'D): It means you boys...

Eddie grabs their shoulders as he kneels behind them.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Are the future of Hellfire.

Dustin smiles.

EDDIE (CONT'D): I knew it the moment I saw you.

Eddie points to another table.

EDDIE (CONT'D): You sat on that table right over there, looking like...looking like two little lost sheep.

Dustin chuckles. Eddie looks at him.

EDDIE (CONT'D): You were wearing a Weird Al t-shirt, which I thought was brave.

Dustin's smile fades, and he looks a little embarrassed.

DUSTIN: Thank you.

Eddie looks at Mike.

EDDIE: Mike, you were wearing whatever shit your mummy bought you from goddamn Gap.

The boys all laugh. Eddie suddenly grips Mike and Dustin's shoulders tighter, using them to pull the boys to a standing up position. He starts leading them between the tables to the centre of the cafeteria. Dustin looks a little scared.

EDDIE (CONT'D): And we showed you that school didn't have to be the worst years of your lives, right?

Mike and Dustin shake their heads.

MIKE: No.

EDDIE: Okay, no, no. Well, I'm here to tell you that there are other little lost sheepies out there who need help.

Eddie points one of his fingers to show the boys the nerd and outcast tables of the cafeteria, still holding onto their shoulders.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Who need you.

Eddie pushes their shoulders outwards so that they turn around and face him, holding their other shoulders so that they look at him.

EDDIE (CONT'D): And all you guys gotta do is get your Bo-Peeps on and go and find one.

Eddie turns the boys around and pushes them into the centre of the cafeteria.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – STUDY – DAY

The phone rings. Joyce picks it up immediately.

JOYCE: Where the hell have you been?

INT. MURRAY'S WAREHOUSE – KITCHEN – DAY

Murray opens the freezer. The phone rests between his ear and his shoulder.

MURRAY: I have karate from 1 to 3 on Fridays.

Murray grabs a half empty bag of ice from the freezer and closes the door. He walks away from the freezer.

MURRAY (CONT'D): So let me see if I have this right. You received a doll in the mail.

Murray reaches into the bag of ice and grabs a handful, putting them into a glass.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – STUDY – DAY

JOYCE: Yes.

MURRAY (ON PHONE): And it's creepy.

JOYCE: Oh, yes.

INT. MURRAY'S WAREHOUSE – KITCHEN – DAY

Murray unscrews the cap on a bottle of liquor.

MURRAY: And you believe it's from Russia, huh?

Murray pours the liquor into the glass.

JOYCE (ON PHONE): I know it is.

MURRAY: Hmm.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – STUDY – DAY

JOYCE: The...the stamps on the package have that hammer with the that hook thingamajig.

INT. MURRAY'S WAREHOUSE – KITCHEN – DAY

MURRAY: Sickle.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – STUDY – DAY

JOYCE: Whatever.

INT. MURRAY'S WAREHOUSE – BATHROOM – DAY

Murray walks into his bathroom.

MURRAY: Sounds like it came from Russia.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – STUDY – DAY

JOYCE: Wow, I am so glad I called you.

INT. MURRAY'S WAREHOUSE – BATHROOM – DAY

Murray chuckles.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – STUDY – DAY

JOYCE (CONT'D): Should I be worried?

INT. MURRAY'S WAREHOUSE – BATHROOM – DAY

MURRAY: I would be.

Murray downs the liquor.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Ah!

Murray throws the ice left in the glass into the bath.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Could be a threat.

Murray sets the glass down.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – STUDY – DAY

MURRAY (CONT'D)(ON PHONE): After all, you did sabotage their US operation...

INT. MURRAY'S WAREHOUSE – BATHROOM – DAY

Murray picks up the bag of ice.

MURRAY (CONT'D): And killed about two dozen comrades.

Murray dumps the ice into the bath.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – STUDY – DAY

JOYCE: But how would they know my name?

INT. MURRAY'S WAREHOUSE – BATHROOM – DAY

Murray takes a few steps away from the bath.

MURRAY: If it's the KGB, Joyce, and they wanna find out who you are, they will.

Murray starts to pull his karate uniform off. He takes one arm out of the shirt and has a realisation, staring at his hand.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Wait, can you undress her?

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – STUDY – DAY

Joyce makes a face.

JOYCE: What?

INT. MURRAY'S WAREHOUSE – BATHROOM – DAY

MURRAY: The creepy doll. Can you remove her dress?

Murray pulls his pants down.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – STUDY – DAY

JOYCE: I don't...okay.

Joyce reluctantly lifts the doll's dress up, revealing very perky breasts on the doll.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Jesus.

MURRAY (ON PHONE): What?

JOYCE: She has nipples.

INT. MURRAY'S WAREHOUSE – BATHROOM – DAY

Murray lowers himself into the ice bath. He exclaims in relief.

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – STUDY – DAY

Joyce makes a face.

MURRAY (ON PHONE): Yeah!

INT. MURRAY'S WAREHOUSE – BATHROOM – DAY

Murray yells in relief. He picks up the phone, which had been resting on the plank across the bath.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Okay, now, do you see anything taped to her?

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – STUDY – DAY

Joyce looks at the doll under her clothes. She finds a crack on the doll's lower torso.

MURRAY (CONT'D)(ON PHONE): Wires or a bug or something?

JOYCE: I don't know. It's...it's cracked.

INT. MURRAY'S WAREHOUSE – BATHROOM – DAY

MURRAY: Cracked?

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – STUDY – DAY

JOYCE: Yeah, like, the porcelain's cracked and they tried to glue it back together.

INT. MURRAY'S WAREHOUSE – BATHROOM – DAY

MURRAY: Okay, okay. Uh, do you have rope and something heavy?

INT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – STUDY – DAY

JOYCE: What for?

INT. MURRAY'S WAREHOUSE – BATHROOM – DAY

MURRAY: Smashing.

INT. LENORA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL – WOOD SHOP – DAY

Jonathan hammers a nail into a bird house. Argyle rounds the corner and walks towards him, hiding something behind his back.

ARGYLE: What do you think, Byers?

Argyle brings his hands around to reveal a birdhouse in them, with a wooden marijuana leaf around the opening.

ARGYLE (CONT'D): I call it a weeder. You get it, man? Like a feeder? Weeder?

JONATHAN: Clever.

Jonathan picks up his birdhouse and walks away. Argyle follows him.

ARGYLE: Hey, where you going, man? Look, I'm just trying to turn that frown upside down, man.

JONATHAN: Yeah, yeah.

Jonathan reaches a bench on the other end of the woodshop and starts to do more work there. Argyle sits down on the other side of the bench.

ARGYLE: Okay, come on, man. What, are you gonna be moping around all break or what?

JONATHAN: I'm not moping.

ARGYLE: You're moping.

JONATHAN: Really?

ARGYLE: Mopey Dick.

JONATHAN: Wow, wow, that's clever.

ARGYLE: Oh, is this because your girl is ditching you?

JONATHAN: What? Nancy's not ditching me.

ARGYLE: Oh, so she's coming now?

JONATHAN: No.

ARGYLE: Ah, so she's ditching you.

JONATHAN: Dude, no, she's not ditching me. She has to work.

ARGYLE: Who the hell works over spring break, man?

JONATHAN: Nancy. Nancy does.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – NEWSPAPER ROOM – DAY

Nancy walks through the room, looking over everyone's work. Fred follows her.

FRED: Maybe I'm missing something, but why can't Jonathan just come down here for break?

NANCY: Because.

FRED: Because why?

NANCY: Because a lot of reasons.

FRED: Curious.

Nancy stops beside Candace as she works on the layout of a spread. Fred stops on the other side of the work bench.

NANCY: Um, do you mind if I take a crack at this, Candace?

CANDACE: Um, go ahead. All yours.

Candace gets up and walks away. Nancy takes her place.

FRED: You said there's lots of reasons he's not coming. Such as?

NANCY: Why are you being so nosy?

FRED: Call it journalistic instinct.

NANCY: Okay, well, there's no story here, if that's what you're after.

Nancy starts reworking the layout of a spread.

NANCY (CONT'D): His mum works, so he has to watch over his brother. On top of that, he's not early decision like me, so he's waiting on his acceptance letter, and he wants to be there when it comes. Which I totally get.

FRED: Okay. Um, I don't. It just...

INT. LENORA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL – CLASSROOM – DAY

ARGYLE: ...doesn't make any sense, dude. Okay, let me sift through this mess. Nancy is the supposed love of your life. In fact, you're so smitten that you have this grand plan to go to some fancy-schmancy college, AKA money pit, together?

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – NEWSPAPER ROOM – DAY

FRED: And yet, he's so nervous about this acceptance letter, he doesn't have time to visit the number one most desired girl in Hawkins?

INT. LENORA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL – CLASSROOM – DAY

ARGYLE: That doesn't pass the smell test, man. In fact, it stinks to high heaven. Whoo! Look, you're a good boy, okay? You've been a good boy, man. And I think it's way past due you give that right hand of yours a vacation and get yourself some well-deserved hanky-panky.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – NEWSPAPER ROOM – DAY

NANCY: Okay, first of all, Fred, I'm going to try to forget that you said any of that. It's...

INT. LENORA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL – CLASSROOM – DAY

JONATHAN: Gross, dude.

ARGYLE: It's natural.

JONATHAN: You just don't understand Nancy.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – NEWSPAPER ROOM – DAY

NANCY: He's not like you.

Fred makes a 'really?' face.

NANCY (CONT'D): He's caring and compassionate and...

INT. LENORA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL – CLASSROOM – DAY

JONATHAN: ...and incredibly ambitious. She's never done a single thing halfway in her life.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – NEWSPAPER ROOM – DAY

NANCY: He's so protective over the people that he loves.

INT. LENORA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL – CLASSROOM – DAY

JONATHAN: If she takes on the editor of the school paper, she's gonna make that the best goddamn school paper that ever existed.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – NEWSPAPER ROOM – DAY

NANCY: And he'll never back down from what's right, what's moral. No matter the pressure, no matter the personal cost...

INT. LENORA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL – CLASSROOM – DAY

JONATHAN: That's why I love her.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – NEWSPAPER ROOM – DAY

NANCY: That's why I love him.

INT. LENORA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL – CLASSROOM – DAY

JONATHAN: Everything between us is...

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – NEWSPAPER ROOM – DAY

NANCY: Perfect.

Fred rounds the bench to take a good look at Nancy's spread.

FRED: Eh, I'm still rooting for my alt.

Fred opens his folder and holds it up, showing his own take on the spread. He looks back at Nancy and grins. Nancy makes a face. The door to the newspaper room opens.

MIKE: Nancy!

Mike runs into the newspaper room and stops before the steps. The door slams into the wall before closing with a creak. Mike looks around, seeing everyone looking at him with annoyed expressions. He spots Nancy in the middle of the room, looking the most annoyed of all.

MIKE (CONT'D): Nancy, hey. Um, do you wanna join Hellfire tonight?

Nancy glares at him, seething.

EXT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – PAYPHONE – DAY

Dustin stands at the payphone, on the phone with Steve.

DUSTIN: Just move your date this one time. Come on.

INT. FAMILY VIDEO – DAY

Steve stands behind the front counter. Steve fidgets with a slinky, the phone between his ear and his shoulder.

STEVE: What, to hang out with you and Eddie ‘the Freak’ Munson? Uh, yeah, I’ll pass.

EXT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – PAYPHONE – DAY

DUSTIN: You’re just jealous cause I have another older male friend.

INT. FAMILY VIDEO – DAY

Steve makes a face.

STEVE: Ew. Ugh. Whatever. Besides, I mean, I really dig this girl. I mean I think that she could...who knows, maybe she could be there one.

A few customers open the door and walk in.

STEVE (CONT’D): Oh, I got some customers. Gotta call you back. Bye.

Steve hangs up the phone.

EXT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – PAYPHONE – DAY

DUSTIN: No, you can’t call me back. I’m at...

The dial tone rings, and Dustin stares at the phone in annoyance.

DUSTIN (CONT’D): School.

Dustin hangs up the phone. He holds up both middle fingers as he walks away.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – DAY

The wrestling team practices. Mike stands to the side, talking with a wrestler.

WRESTLER: So you fight with dice?

MIKE: Yes, but these aren’t your normal dice. They have up to 20 sides.

A whistle blows. The wrestler stares at Mike. In the background, one wrestler is giving a wedgie to another.

EXT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – COURTYARD – DAY

Dustin stands with Max just outside.

MAX: If I play, do I get one of those cool t-shirts?

Dustin laughs. Max smiles widely, sarcastic.

DUSTIN: Yes.

MAX: Really?

DUSTIN: Everyone gets a t-shirt. We make 'em ourselves, and if you...

Dustin realises Max is being sarcastic.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): You're being sarcastic.

Max makes a face as if to say 'maybe'. She puts her skateboard down and rides off.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): You being sarcastic?

Dustin turns around, watching Max ride away.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): She was being sarcastic.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – CLASSROOM – DAY

Mike talks to a chem student as he pours liquid into a beaker.

CHEM STUDENT: My mum says the game promotes Satanism and animal cruelty.

MIKE: That's just bullshit media propaganda.

The chem student shrugs.

CHEM STUDENT: 60 Minutes begs to differ.

The beaker sparks.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – CLASSROOM – DAY

A bunch of maths students work on equations.

MATHS STUDENT: No.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – CLASSROOM – DAY

A bunch of art students work on paintings.

ART STUDENT: No.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – DAY

A bunch of drama students work on a play.

DRAMA STUDENT: No.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – CAFETERIA – DAY

A bunch of students play chess.

STUDENT 1 and STUDENT 2 (IN UNISON): No.

EXT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DAY

Mike and Dustin sit on a bench, exhausted from their futile quest. They both pant.

MIKE: I hate high school.

Dustin grunts in agreement. Dustin glances in the direction of Hawkins Middle. His eyes widen with realisation.

DUSTIN: So, screw it.

MIKE: Screw what?

DUSTIN: Screw high school.

Dustin gets up and starts running. Mike runs after him.

MIKE: What? What? Dustin, where are you going? The boys run up the hill to Hawkins Middle.

DUSTIN: Just trust me!

MIKE: Come on, just talk to me. Tell me things!

The boys run past a boy skating down the hill on a skateboard.

DUSTIN: Wear a helmet!

MIKE: What are you talking about?

As the boys run up the hill, Chrissy steps into frame. She looks up at Hawkins Middle, then at the parking lot, before walking towards the back of Hawkins High.

EXT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – OVAL – DAY

Chrissy steps walks down the stairs and crosses the track, heading for the woods.

EXT. HAWKINS WOODS – DAY

Chrissy walks through the woods, looking a bit nervous. A distant animal call sounds, and she looks briefly in its direction. Chrissy reaches a bench in the woods, a few empty cans on the table. She stops, looking around.

CHRISSY: Hello?

A clock chimes. Chrissy turns to see a grandfather clock embedded in a tree, the pendulum ticking. It chimes. Chrissy slowly walks towards it, scared. It chimes. Chrissy's breathing becomes shaky. It chimes again. The glass on the face starts to crack, making Chrissy back up a little. The cracks meet in the middle, a hole forming, and spiders begin to crawl out of the hole. Chrissy whimpers, backing away quicker. As Chrissy seems ready to run, she bumps into something, letting out a yell. She turns around and sees Eddie.

EDDIE: Whoa, hey, hey, hey. Sorry.

Eddie chuckles.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Didn't mean to scare you.

Chrissy's scared expression doesn't fade. Eddie looks concerned.

EDDIE (CONT'D): You okay?

Chrissy turns to look at the clock. It's gone, the tree now whole, as if it was never there.

EXT. HAWKINS WOODS – DAY

Chrissy sits down on the bench, her leg bouncing. Eddie puts his lunch box down and starts to take his jacket off. He looks a little weirded out by Chrissy's expression.

EDDIE (CONT'D): There's, uh...there's nothing to worry about. Okay?

Eddie puts his jacket on the table and

EDDIE (CONT'D): No one ever comes out here.

Eddie sits down.

EDDIE (CONT'D): We're safe. I promise.

Eddie opens his lunchbox, revealing a few bags of weed and some cigarettes. He turns the lunchbox slightly so Chrissy can see inside, then rests his head on his hand.

CHRISSY: So, how does this work exactly?

EDDIE: Oh, just like any other old sale, except, uh, cash only, and uh, for obvious reasons, no receipts.

Chrissy looks unsure.

EDDIE (CONT'D): I'll do you half an ounce for, uh...

Eddie grabs a bag of weed and holds it out.

EDDIE (CONT'D): 20. What do you say? It's plenty of bang for your buck. Should last you a while.

The sound of a branch snapping makes Chrissy gasp, whipping her head around to look behind her. A squirrel scurries up a tree. Eddie closes the lunchbox. Chrissy slowly turns her head to look at him.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Hey, uh, we don't need to do this. Just give me the word and just I'll walk away. Okay?

Eddie puts the lunchbox on the bench beside him. Chrissy avoids his eyes.

CHRISSY: No, it's not that. I don't want you to go. It's just...do you ever feel like you're losing your mind?

Eddie looks concerned, as if this isn't something he'd expect Chrissy to ask. Chrissy looks at him.

EDDIE: Um, you know, just...on a daily basis.

Eddie grins.

EDDIE (CONT'D): I mean, I feel like I'm losing my mind right now doing a drug deal with Chrissy Cunningham, the queen of Hawkins High.

Eddie smiles. The hint of a smile creeps onto Chrissy's face.

EDDIE (CONT'D): You know, this isn't the first time that we've, um...hung out.

CHRISSY: No?

EDDIE: You don't remember?

CHRISSY: I'm sorry. I-

EDDIE: That's okay.

Eddie is quiet for a moment. He suddenly makes a motion of stabbing something into his heart, throwing himself backwards. Chrissy lets out a surprised yell. Eddie rolls on the ground and awkwardly gets up. He has leaves on his clothes and in his hair.

EDDIE (CONT'D): I wouldn't remember me either, Chrissy.

Chrissy laughs.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Honestly, do I have stuff in my hair?

Eddie rubs his hair, trying to get the leaves out. Chrissy giggles. Eddie takes a few steps towards the bench, crossing his arms, but there's a smile on his face.

EDDIE (CONT'D): You don't remember me?

CHRISSY: I'm sorry.

EDDIE: Middle school, talent show.

Chrissy concentrates on trying to remember.

EDDIE (CONT'D): You were doing this cheer thing.

Eddie makes a few gestures in imitation of shaking pom poms.

EDDIE (CONT'D): You know, the...the thing you do.

Chrissy chuckles.

EDDIE (CONT'D): It was pretty cool, actually. And I...I was with my band.

CHRISSY: Corroded Coffin.

Eddie does an aggressive clap, grinning, and does an excited spin.

EDDIE: Corro-

CHRISSY: Oh, my God!

EDDIE: You do remember.

CHRISSY: Yes, of course. With a name like that, how could I forget?

EDDIE: I dunno. You're a freak.

Chrissy grins, not sure what to say.

CHRISSY: No, you just...you looked so-

EDDIE: Different? Yeah. Well, uh, my hair was buzzed, and I didn't have these sweet old tatties yet.

Eddie pulls the collar of his shirt down to reveal a tattoo on his chest, one of many on his body.

CHRISSY: You played guitar, right?

EDDIE: Uh-huh. Still do. Still do. You should come see us. Uh, we play at the Hideout on Tuesdays. It's pretty cool. We...we actually get a crowd of about five drunks.

Chrissy laughs.

EDDIE (CONT'D): It's not exactly the Garden, but, uh, you gotta start somewhere, right? So...

Eddie punches a tree a few times.

CHRISSY: You know, you're not what I thought you'd be like.

Eddie hides his mouth with a chunk of hair.

EDDIE: Mean and scary?

CHRISSY: Yeah.

EDDIE: Yeah, well, I actually kinda thought you'd be kinda mean and scary too.

Eddie walks back to the bench.

CHRISSY: (softly) Me?

Eddie sits down.

EDDIE: Terrifying. Uh, so,

Eddie pulls his lunchbox from the bench and sets it down on the table.

EDDIE (CONT'D): In other good news, flattery works with me, so...

Chrissy chuckles softly. Eddie opens his lunchbox.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Twenty-five percent discount for the half.

Eddie pulls out a bag of weed and sets it on the table.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Fifteen bucks. You're robbing me blind, here.

Chrissy looks unsure, looking at the bag.

CHRISSY: Do you have anything...maybe...stronger?

Chrissy looks at Eddie. He looks concerned.

INT. LENORA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL – CLASSROOM – DAY

The maths teacher walks through the class, handing tests back. She gives Kate her test.

MATHS TEACHER: Nice job, Kate.

The maths teacher gives Paul his test.

MATHS TEACHER (CONT'D): Excellent work, Paul. Nice improvement.

The maths teacher puts Eleven's text on her desk. It has an 'F' on it.

MATHS TEACHER (CONT'D): Very disappointing, Jane. Let's talk after break.

The maths teacher continues through the class. Eleven sits in her desk, looking upset.

EXT. LENORA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL – COURTYARD – DAY

Students walk around the courtyard, chatting. Eleven walks through the courtyard, carrying her diorama. Angela sticks her foot out and trips Eleven over, sending her to the floor. Her diorama breaks on impact, sliding away.

CROWD: Oh!

ANGELA: Oh, my God.

Eleven, still on the floor, turns to look at Angela. Jake, Stacey, and Chad stand behind her. Angela rests with her hands on her knees, laughing sarcastically.

ANGELA (CONT'D): I am so sorry. I hope Mr. Fibly's okay.

Angela chuckles. The group laughs, walking away as Eleven slowly pushes herself up. Jake kicks the diorama over to Chad, who steps on it and twists his foot. The crowd murmurs, some students laughing.

CHAD: Whoops!

Will walks out of the school, looking around. He spots Eleven on the ground, the group laughing at her and her broken diorama, and the crowd gathered around.

ANGELA: Oh, my God.

Will looks nervous, almost scared. Eleven's face screws up in anger as the group walks away, laughing. She takes a few deep breaths, standing up.

ELEVEN: Angela!

The group turns around. Eleven walks towards them, breathing heavily. She pushes her hand out with a scream. Nothing happens. Angela makes a 'wtf' expression. Eleven stares at her outstretched hand, terrified at the realisation that she still doesn't have her powers. A few people laugh.

ANGELA: Holy shit!

STACEY: What the hell was that?

The crowd laughs. Will's breathing increases, and he looks worried. Eleven slowly lowers her hand, looking around at the crowd. Mrs. Gracey pushes her way through.

MRS. GRACEY: Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey, what's going on here? What's going on? Jane?

Mrs. Gracey reaches Eleven, seeing her diorama.

MRS. GRACEY (CONT'D): Jane. Did someone do this?

ELEVEN: I tripped.

Eleven looks at Angela, prompting Mrs. Gracey to do the same. The group avoid eye contact.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): It was just an accident.

Mrs. Gracey sighs, walking towards Angela.

MRS. GRACEY: All right, Angela. You come with me.

CROWD: Ooh!

ANGELA: What? Why?

Mrs. Gracey grabs Angela's arm and starts pulling her away.

MRS. GRACEY: Let's go.

ANGELA: I didn't do anything. Tell her, Jane. Tell her!

Eleven doesn't say anything. Angela grunts as Mrs. Gracey pulls her towards the school. Eleven looks at her diorama, about to cry. As she bends down, the crowd disperses. Will runs up to her.

WILL: Shit. El. El.

Will kneels down beside Eleven.

WILL (CONT'D): Shit.

Eleven tries to put the broken cabin back together. Will tries to collect the diorama pieces, close to crying himself.

WILL (CONT'D): El...I'm sorry. It's gonna be okay. It's...it's not that bad.

Eleven picks up the figurine of Hopper, which has broken in two.

WILL (CONT'D): We'll fix it together, okay?

Eleven lets out a small sob.

WILL (CONT'D): Okay? Shit.

Tears roll down Eleven's cheeks. She clutches the pieces of the Hopper figurine tightly.

EXT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – FRONT YARD – DAY

Joyce stands at the tree outside, holding rope. She has goggles on her face and gloves on her hand, and the phone is wedged between her ear and her shoulder. She uses a tree branch as leverage for a paint can, using the rope to raise it higher. Poised on the ground underneath the paint can is the doll. Across the street, two children watch her as their mother unloads the groceries. The paint can hits the branch with a faint 'clunk', and Joyce looks over at the family.

MOTHER: Come on, kids. Don't stare.

JOYCE: Oh, hi.

Joyce waves. The mother ushers her children towards their front door.

CHILD: Mummy, what's she doing?

Joyce looks back at the can.

JOYCE: Was this really necessary?

INT. MURRAY'S WAREHOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

Murray paces his living room.

MURRAY: If that porcelain belly is pregnant with an explosive device, you will soon be thanking me.

EXT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – FRONT YARD – DAY

Joyce looks a little annoyed to have to listen to Murray's mini rant while trying to keep the paint can up.

INT. MURRAY'S WAREHOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

MURRAY (CONT'D): And remember, you are not lowering this bucket. You are...

EXT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – FRONT YARD – DAY

JOYCE: Releasing it. Got it.

INT. MURRAY'S WAREHOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

MURRAY: We want to make sure that we destroy that doll with as much force as possible.

EXT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – FRONT YARD – DAY

JOYCE: Yep. Got it.

Joyce lets go of the rope, turning and hiding her face.

INT. MURRAY'S WAREHOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

MURRAY: One more thing.

EXT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – FRONT YARD – DAY

The paint can plummets to the ground, smashing the doll.

INT. MURRAY'S WAREHOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

MURRAY (CONT'D): Joyce. Are you there? Talk to me! Joyce! Joyce!

EXT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – FRONT YARD – DAY

The phone rests on the ground, dropped when Joyce shielded herself.

MURRAY (CONT'D)(ON PHONE): Joyce! Joyce! Joyce!

Joyce bends down and picks up the phone.

MURRAY (CONT'D)(ON PHONE): Joyce!

JOYCE: Yeah?

INT. MURRAY'S WAREHOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

Murray looks relieved to hear Joyce's voice.

MURRAY: What happened?

EXT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – FRONT YARD – DAY

JOYCE: It broke.

INT. MURRAY'S WAREHOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – DAY

MURRAY: Do you see a bug?

EXT. BYERS HOUSE (LENORA HILLS) – FRONT YARD – DAY

Joyce slowly walks towards the doll, pulling the phone further away from her ear the closer she gets.

MURRAY (CONT'D)(ON PHONE): Anything with wires? Or anything that...that doesn't look like the insides of a doll? Anything like that?

Joyce bends down beside the doll, putting the phone on the ground. She slowly pushes the doll's dress back.

MURRAY (CONT'D)(ON PHONE): (faint) Joyce! Joyce!

Joyce spots a piece of paper inside the doll, quickly reaching in to get it.

MURRAY (CONT'D)(ON PHONE): (faint) Where'd you go? Where'd you go now?

Joyce starts unfolding the paper.

MURRAY (CONT'D)(ON PHONE): (faint) Why are you not answering me again?

Joyce unfolds the note. She takes off the goggles.

MURRAY (CONT'D)(ON PHONE): (faint) Joyce!

Joyce turns the paper around, finding it to be a ransom note, the letters made of newspaper cuttings. The first part reads 'HOP IS ALIVE! HE LOOKS FORD TOO DATE, PLEEZ TO MAKE'. Joyce's eyes widen as her breathing becomes heavier, both relieved and nervous.

JOYCE: Oh my...

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

A horn blow, and the team runs inside. They start practicing shots, the other team doing the same at the other end of the court. The crowd cheers wildly, jumping up and down.

CHEERLEADERS: Let's go, Tigers! Let's go, Tigers!

Lucas hypes himself up before it's his turn to practice a throw. Near the entrance to the gym, Nancy stands with Fred and a photographer. Both Nancy and Fred hold notepads. Nancy taps the photographer after he takes a photo, showing him something written on her pad. Steve walks into the gym with Brenda, the couple heading towards the grandstands.

BRENDA: Does it bother you that, like, we might win a championship like right after you graduated?

STEVE: You know, yeah, that's an interesting point.

Steve lets Brenda up first.

STEVE (CONT'D): Thank you so much for bringing that up, Brenda.

Steve follows Brenda into the grandstands, passing the band, where Robin and Vickie are playing. The announcer steps up to the microphone, prompting the band to stop and the crowd to quiet down.

ANNOUNCER: Everyone now please rise for our national anthem.

Those sitting stand up.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D): Singing for us tonight, we have a very special guest. All the way from Nashville, our very own Tammy Thompson!

The crowd claps and cheers as Tammy walks into the gym, waving as she walks towards the microphone. Steve has a wide smile while facing forward, which turns into a 'omigod she's here' face when looking at Robin. Robin looks up at him, sharing a similar expression. Both of them are dumbfounded.

STUDENT 1: Go, Tammy!

Tammy reaches the microphone.

STUDENT 2: We love you, Tammy!

The crowd quiets down.

TAMMY: (singing, off-key) O say, can you see...

Feedback whines. Robin shakes her head. She looks up at Steve, who slowly turns to look at her. They share a 'she's terrible' expression.

TAMMY (CONT'D): (singing, off-key) By the dawn's early light...

STEVE: (whispers) Told you. Muppet.

ROBIN: (whispers) Okay, she does sound like a Muppet.

VICKIE: (whispers) Oh my God, totally.

Robin looks at Vickie, stunned.

VICKIE (CONT'D): (whispers) She sounds like Kermit.

ROBIN: (whispers) I was thinking it was more like Miss Piggy.

Vickie lets out a quiet snort, smiling.

ROBIN (CONT'D): (whispers) I used to think she sounded good cause I had this massive crush-

Robin stops herself. Vickie looks at her.

VICKIE: (whispers) Sorry?

ROBIN: (whispers) Um, we...we took a...a massively hard class together. We were...we were in Mrs. Click's class together. Yeah.

Robin chuckles dryly.

ROBIN (CONT'D): (whispers) Uh...sorry, were you asking me a question?

VICKIE: (whispers) No.

ROBIN: (whispers) Oh, okay.

TAMMY: (singing, off-key) ...ramparts we watched...

Steve looks like he's bored already. Brenda looks at him.

BRENDA: Wow. She sounds amazing, doesn't she?

Steve doesn't say anything. When Brenda turns back to Tammy, he makes a 'what the hell' face.

TAMMY: (singing, off-key) And the rocket's red glare...the bombs bursting in air...gave proof through the night...that our flag was still there...

Lucas looks behind him at the grandstands, searching.

TAMMY (CONT'D): (singing, off-key) O say, star-spangled...

Lucas' eyes fall onto the gap where his friends should've been. He slowly looks forward, disappointed and annoyed.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – HALLWAY – NIGHT

Mike and Dustin turn around a corner, walking down the hallway. Mike looks annoyed at the turn of events. Erica turns the corner and walks with them, an American flag tied around her shoulders, which waves behind her as she walks.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

The D&D game is set up in the middle of the room. Eddie sits in a throne at one end of the table, looking unimpressed. Gareth, Jeff, and Freak stand beside him. Dustin, Mike, and Erica stand at the other end of the table.

EDDIE: Absolutely not.

DUSTIN: You asked for a sub. We delivered.

EDDIE: This is Hellfire Club. Not Babysitting Club.

ERICA: I'm 11, you long-haired freak.

Dustin and Mike look horrified at Erica's words.

EDDIE: My, my, the child speaks.

Eddie looks at Freak, who chuckles.

Eddie looks back at Erica, a smile on his face. He gets up and walks towards her, the pair meeting in the middle.

EDDIE (CONT'D): So, what's your name, child?

ERICA: Erica Sinclair.

Eddie chuckles.

EDDIE: So this is Sinclair's infamous sister.

Erica rolls her eyes, looking back at Mike and Dustin.

ERICA: He's sharp.

Gareth and Jeff laugh. Eddie shoots them a look and they stop.

EDDIE: What's your class and level? Level one dwarf?

Gareth, Jeff, and Freak laugh. Dustin and Mike look nervous.

ERICA: My name is Lady Applejack. And I'm a chaotic good half-elf rogue, level 14.

The boys look a little taken aback.

ERICA (CONT'D): And I will sneak behind any monster you throw my way and stab them in the back with my poison-soaked kukri. And I'll smile as I watch them die a slow, agonising death. So, we gonna do this, or we gonna keep chitchatting like this is your mummy's book club?

There's silence. Eddie stares at Erica. None of the boys are sure how he'll react. After a few moments, he breaks out in a smile. He puts his hand out.

EDDIE: Welcome to Hellfire.

Erica takes his hand.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

The referee blows the whistle, tossing the ball into the air. The Hawkins player at the front bats the ball backwards, allowing Jason to catch it. He dribbles it a few paces.

CHEERLEADERS: Push 'em back, defence! Push 'em back...

Jason tosses the ball to Patrick, who bounces it back to Jason as he runs to another spot. Jason grabs the ball and throws it, landing it in the basket. The crowd cheers as the teams reset. Jason looks at Chrissy and smiles at her. At the entrance, Nancy is busy writing in her notebook. She watches as a player on the away team scores.

Jason gets Andy's attention.

JASON: Hey! Yo, you gotta stay on 'em.

Andy stares at him.

JASON (CONT'D): Stay on 'em! Let's go! Go!

The teams go back to playing. Fred turns to Nancy.

FRED: Looks like my headline has a shot.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

The Hellfire Club session is well underway. Eddie sits in the throne, his DM screen in front of him. The others sit around the table.

EDDIE: The hooded cultists chant, 'Hail Lord Vecna. Hail Lord Vecna'. They turn to you, remove their hoods. You recognise most of them from Makbar. But there is one you do not recognise, his skin shrivelled, desiccated. And something else.

Eddie slowly rises in his chair, hiding his left arm behind him.

EDDIE (CONT'D): He's not only missing his left arm, but his left eye!

Eddie stands up straight, covering his left eye with his right hand. The group immediately protests.

DUSTIN: What?!

ERICA: What?

DUSTIN: No! No!

MIKE: Shit!

JEFF: Vecna's dead.

MIKE: He was killed by Kas.

Eddie sits back down.

EDDIE: So it was thought, my friends. So it was thought.

Eddie stands up, a figurine in his hand.

EDDIE (CONT'D): But Vecna lives.

Eddie puts the figurine of Vecna on the board.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

The basketball game is well underway. Jason tosses the ball to another player, who catches it and goes to throw. A player from the away team jumps into him, sending him to the ground. The referee blows the whistle, and the crowd boos. Jason approaches the away player as his teammates help the injured player off.

JASON: Yo, what the hell was that?

The away player says nothing, skirting around him.

JASON (CONT'D): What the hell was that?

The referee comes over to break them up. Jason backs away.

JASON (CONT'D): That's not me, it's him.

EDDIE (O.S.): You are scared. You're tired. You are injured.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

EDDIE (CONT'D): Do you flee Vecna and his cultists? Or do you stand your ground and fight? Come on.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

The coach turns to Lucas as the injured player is helped off.

COACH: Sinclair, you're in.

Lucas looks at him, surprised.

LUCAS: Huh?

COACH: You're in. Son, let's go!

The buzzer sounds. Lucas rushes to take his jumper and pants off before running onto the court.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

The group thinks.

DUSTIN: I say we fight. To the death.

MIKE: To the death.

ERICA: To the death.

The group starts banging on the table. Freak holds his drink up.

DUSTIN, MIKE, ERICA, GARETH, FREAK, and JEFF (IN UNISON): (chanting) To the death! To the death!

Eddie grins.

DUSTIN, MIKE, ERICA, GARETH, FREAK, and JEFF (CONT'D)(IN UNISON): (chanting) To the death! To the death! To the death! To the death!

Eddie sits down, grinning.

DUSTIN, MIKE, ERICA, GARETH, FREAK, and JEFF (CONT'D)(IN UNISON): (chanting) To the death! To the death!

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

The basketball game is in full swing, with Lucas now playing. He dribbles a bit before tossing the ball to Jason, who runs and jumps, scoring a point. The scoreboard ticks to '32' for the home team, but the away team is on '36'.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

Erica shakes dice in her hands before throwing them.

DUSTIN, MIKE, ERICA, GARETH, FREAK, and JEFF (CONT'D)(IN UNISON): Yeah!

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

The cheerleaders cheer. Patrick catches the ball, throwing it and scoring.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

Mike shakes dice in his hands before throwing them.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

Players crowd under the hoop as the ball bounces on it.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

Eddie pushes Mike's figurine over, making an 'ooh' face.

MIKE: No!

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

A player tries to block an away player's shot.

CROWD: Defence! Defence!

The away player scores. The scoreboard ticks to '52' for the away team, while the home team is on '50'.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

Jeff shakes dice in his hands before throwing them. Eddie bats his figurine down.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

STEVE: Shoot it!

Andy catches the ball and throws it, scoring a point. The band cheers.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

DUSTIN: Yes!

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

An away player scores.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Come on!

Gareth throws a dice. Dustin points at Eddie, who talks back. Everyone's voices overlap.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

The away team scores. The scoreboard ticks to '67' for the away team.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

Gareth throws dice. Eddie cackles.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

The home team scores. The scoreboard ticks to '68' for the home team.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

Erica throws dice.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

The away team scores. The scoreboard ticks to '69' for the away team.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

A dice hits a figurine.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

The ball misses the basket. Jason catches the ball and immediately makes a 'T' motion with his hands.

JASON: Time-out. Time-out.

The referee blows his whistle.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

Freak makes a 'T' motion with his hands.

FREAK: Time-out! Time-out!

Everyone but Eddie forms a huddle away from the table.

GARETH: Guys, I hate to say this, but we've got to flee.

FREAK: I concur.

ERICA: Didn't we just agree 'to the death'?

GARETH: That wasn't literal.

JEFF: Vecna just decimated us. We can't kill him with two players.

DUSTIN: You too? He only has 15 hit points left. Don't be pussies.

GARETH: Pussies? Really? Cause we're not delusional?

ERICA: Delusional? How about not cowards?

EDDIE: Hey!

The group breaks the huddle to turn and look at Eddie. He crouches on the throne.

EDDIE (CONT'D): If I may interject, gentlemen, Lady Applejack. Whilst I respect the passion, you'd be wise to take Gareth the Great's concern to heart. There is no shame in running. Don't try to be heroes. Not today, 'kay?

Eddie smiles. Dustin holds up his finger.

DUSTIN: One sec.

The group re-huddles.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): What do you think, Mike?

MIKE: How many hit points do you and Applejack have left?

DUSTIN and ERICA (IN UNISON): Twelve.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

The band plays for time-out. The Tigers huddle around the coach.

COACH: Here, on inbound, they're gonna try and take away Jason and double-team him. That is gonna free up Patrick on the left.

JASON: Wait, no, no, no. You gotta let me take the shot.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

MIKE: It's risky as hell. But you're the ones on the battlefield. So it's your call.

Erica looks at Dustin.

DUSTIN: What do you say, Lady Applejack?

Dustin looks at Erica.

ERICA: You really gotta ask?

Dustin looks forward, thinking.

DUSTIN: Screw it.

The group breaks the huddle to turn and look at Eddie.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Let's kill the son of a bitch.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

JASON: Winners find a way to win. Let me find a way.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

The group approaches the table.

JASON: The chances of success are 20-to-1.

Dustin raises his finger.

DUSTIN: Never tell me the odds.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

Jason looks at Andy.

JASON: Just get me the ball. Get me the ball.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

DUSTIN: Get me the D20.

Dustin holds his hand out. Eddie picks it up from the table and holds it up, grinning, before he tosses it to Dustin.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

The basketball game is back in motion. Jason catches the ball and dribbles it a few paces, before he tosses it. It arches in the air.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

Dustin shakes the dice in his hand before throwing it. It rolls along the table, bouncing slightly.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

Players crowd under the hoop as the ball bounces on it.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

The dice comes to a stop, landing on '11'. Eddie stands up, bobbing his head.

EDDIE: (distorted) That's a miss!

Eddie grins. The group protests.

JEFF: No!

DUSTIN: Shit! Shit!

Dustin whacks a can away in annoyance.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

The ball bounces out of the hoop. Players jump up to catch it, but it's Lucas who gets it. He wrestles it away from the away team, dribbling it to the 3-point line. He turns around, aiming to shoot. The timer ticks to '0:02'.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

The group waits in horrible anticipation as Erica shakes the dice in her hand.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

The timer ticks to '0:01'. Lucas jumps up, about to shoot.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

GARETH: (slowed down) Please!

DUSTIN: (slowed down) Come on!

GARETH: (slowed down) Please!

DUSTIN: (slowed down) Come on!

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

Lucas shoots.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

Erica throws the dice.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

Lucas shoots.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

Erica throws the dice.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

The timer ticks to '0:00'. A buzzer sounds. The ball arches in the air.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

The dice rolls along the table, bouncing slightly.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

Vickie and Robin watch in anticipation.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

Jeff and Freak watch in anticipation, nervous.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

Steve and Brenda watch in anticipation.

The ball arches in the air.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

The dice rolls along the table, bouncing slightly.

GARETH: (slowed down) Please!

DUSTIN: (slowed down) Come on!

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

Nancy and Fred slowly rise from the bleachers, watching in anticipation. The ball arches towards the basket. It bounces on the hoop. Steve watches in anticipation.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

The dice slows down, bouncing slightly. Mike watches in anticipation.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

Lucas watches the ball as it bounces from the hoop to the backboard.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

Eddie slowly stands up as the dice nears. It comes to a stop, landing on '20'.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

The ball goes in. The crowd cheers.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

ERICA: Crit hit!

DUSTIN: Yeah!

The group celebrates. Eddie jumps backwards.

EDDIE: What? What?

Eddie claps.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

Steve cheers loudly, jumping up and down. Brenda turns and high fives him. Robin claps. Nancy smiles, writing in her notepad.

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – DRAMA ROOM – NIGHT

EDDIE (CONT'D): That's why we play.

The group cheers, clapping. Eddie leans over the DM screen and does a magician's bow, smiling. Erica grins, power posing.

DUSTIN: Yes! Yes!

INT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – GYM – NIGHT

The crowd cheers. The team runs towards Lucas and surrounds him, the cheerleaders following soon after. They all cheer for him. Jason and another teammate lift him into the air. Lucas looks shocked and dumbfounded as he raises his arms.

TIGERS: (chanting) Lucas! Lucas! Lucas! Lucas!

EXT. HAWKINS HIGH SCHOOL – NIGHT

Lucas and the team walk away from the gym and towards the carpark. The crowd outside claps for him.

JASON: That's you, baby! That's you! Yeah, man!

The team walks up into the parking lot while Lucas stays behind.

JASON (CONT'D): Hey, Jed, you comin'?

JED: Oh, yeah. Party at Benny's, boys!

PLAYERS: Yeah!

Lucas catches sight of the Hellfire Club as they leave the high school cheering. His smile fades.

DUSTIN: Yes!

Patrick runs up to Lucas.

PATRICK: Lucas. Come on, man.

Lucas smiles, following Patrick. His smile fades again.

RADIO HOST 1 (O.S.): After a tragic year for our town, the Tigers have brought home the conference title for the first time in 22 years.

RADIO HOST 2 (O.S.) And what a great game it was, Allen...

INT. MAYFIELD TRAILER – MAX'S ROOM – NIGHT

The radio plays. Max sits on her bed.

RADIO HOST 2 (CONT'D)(ON RADIO): Ending with a dramatic buzzer-beater from benchwarmer Lucas Sinclair.

RADIO HOST 1 (ON RADIO): He must be feeling on top of the world right-

Max turns the radio off. Max sits on her bed in silence. A dog can be heard barking in the distance, making her look in its direction. She sighs.

MAX: All right, all right, I hear you.

Max gets up.

INT. MAYFIELD TRAILER – HALLWAY – NIGHT

Max opens her door and walks out, heading to the lounge room. The TV plays faintly.

INT. MAYFIELD TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Max's mum sleeps on the couch, the TV still playing Misfits of Science.

GLORIA DINALLO (ON TV): It'll be 3.07.

BILLY HAYES (ON TV): Oh, yeah. But this is your old friend Billy talking. And you know, just...just a little favour. And I don't think-

GLORIA DINALLO (ON TV): No. I don't wanna do that stuff.

Max puts out her mum's cigarette in the ashtray, sighing. She grabs the empty cans of beer.

GLORIA DINALLO (CONT'D)(ON TV): Not for you, not for anybody.

INT. MAYFIELD TRAILER – KITCHEN – NIGHT

Max puts the cans in the bin.

GLORIA DINALLO (CONT'D)(ON TV): I'm trying to be normal, Billy.

Max opens the fridge, pulls a plate out, and closes the door.

EXT. MAYFIELD TRAILER – NIGHT

Max walks out of the trailer and across the lawn to the fence. The dog continues barking.

MAX: I'm coming. I'm coming.

Max reaches the fence and kneels down, feeding the dog from the plate.

MAX (CONT'D): Here you go. Good boy.

Loud but muffled music can be heard, and Max looks to see a van pull up outside the trailer across the road. The music stops as the van turns off. Max watches as Eddie gets out. The feet of someone can be seen on the other side of the van.

EDDIE: This is, uh, my castle.

Chrissy rounds the van, following Eddie as he leads her towards the trailer door. Max looks confused. Eddie opens the door and lets Chrissy in, doing a mini bow. He then walks in himself and closes the door. Max is pulled away from watching them by the dog barking.

MAX: Okay. All right.

Max feeds the dog from the plate.

MAX (CONT'D): One more. That's it though, right? Good boy.

Max stands up and walks back to her trailer.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Eddie grabs rubbish lying around. Chrissy stands in the lounge room, looking around.

EDDIE: Sorry for the mess. Uh, the maid took the week off.

Eddie walks away from the lounge room and towards the kitchen, stopping at a drawer alcove. He starts digging in a drawer.

CHRISSY: You, um...you live here alone?

EDDIE: With my uncle. But, uh, he works nights at the plant. Bringing home the big bucks.

Eddie starts digging in another drawer.

CHRISSY: How long does it take?

Eddie stops and looks at Chrissy.

EDDIE: Sorry?

CHRISSY: The Special K. How long to kick in?

EDDIE: Oh, uh, well, it depends if you snort it or not. Uh, if you do, uh, then, uh, yeah.

Eddie pulls a tin out.

EDDIE (CONT'D): It'll, uh, kick in pretty quick.

Eddie opens the tin.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Oh, shit.

CHRISSY: You're sure you have it?

EDDIE: No, no, no, I got it.

Eddie tosses the tin back into the drawer.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Um, somewhere.

Eddie looks around. He glances at Chrissy before turning around.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Uh...

Eddie walks down the hallway, leaving Chrissy alone.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – EDDIE'S ROOM – NIGHT

Eddie stops in the doorway.

EDDIE: Sorry I'm late, sweetheart.

Eddie walks up to his guitar as it hangs in front of the mirror. He pulls it away from the mirror slightly, kissing his fingers before running them over the strings.

EDDIE (CONT'D): You're beautiful.

Eddie lets the guitar go as he walks away and starts searching.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Chrissy starts to get nervous. She peers down the hallway.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – EDDIE'S ROOM – NIGHT

Eddie searches through his things. He pulls out a container and throws it aside. He pulls out a box.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Chrissy fidgets with her hands, nervously waiting. A clock chimes from behind her, and her eyes widen. Chrissy turns around, looking through the window. The clock ticks. Chrissy slowly walks towards the window. The clock chimes. Chrissy reaches the window, nervously looking out as the clock ticks. The clock chimes. Chrissy looks outside for it. The clock chimes. Chrissy quickly closes the curtains and turns around.

CHRISSY: Eddie? Did you find it?

There's no answer.

CHRISSY (CONT'D): Eddie?

There's no answer. Chrissy takes a few slow steps towards the hallway, then walks quicker.

CHRISSY (CONT'D): Eddie?

Chrissy walks down the hallway to Eddie's room.

CHRISSY (CONT'D): Eddie?

INT. CUNNINGHAM HOUSE – SEWING ROOM – CHRISSY'S MINDSCAPE

Chrissy rounds the doorway, expecting to find Eddie. Instead she sees the back of her mum, who sews a cheerleading uniform at a table. She looks scared.

CHRISSY (CONT'D): Mum?

MRS. CUNNINGHAM: Just loosening this up for you, sweetheart. You're going to look...(distorted) absolutely beautiful.

Mrs. Cunningham turns to look at Chrissy. Her face looks demonic, with her eyes white, teeth brown, and skin unnaturally wrinkly but taut. Chrissy looks horrified. She backs out of the room with a gasp, closing the door.

INT. CUNNINGHAM HOUSE – HALLWAY – CHRISSY'S MINDSCAPE

Chrissy pants, slowly turning around. She whimpers in fear as she realises she's in her own home. The door behind her starts to open. Chrissy quickly turns around to pull it closed.

MRS. CUNNINGHAM (CONT'D): Chrissy!

Chrissy wrestles with Mrs. Cunningham to close the door.

CHRISSY: No!

MRS. CUNNINGHAM: (distorted) Chrissy, open the door!

CHRISSY: No!

MRS. CUNNINGHAM: (distorted) Let go!

CHRISSY: No!

MRS. CUNNINGHAM: (distorted) Let go!

Mrs. Cunningham wins the fight, the door opening inwards. Chrissy screams and turns around, running away.

MRS. CUNNINGHAM (CONT'D): (distorted) Chrissy!

Chrissy runs down the stairs, passing a painting of the Cunningham family.

INT. CUNNINGHAM HOUSE – FOYER – CHRISSY'S MINDSCAPE

Chrissy reaches the bottom of the staircase, looking around as she pants. She spots the head of her dad over an armchair in the room over.

CHRISSY: Dad.

INT. CUNNINGHAM HOUSE – LOUNGE ROOM – CHRISSEY'S MINDSCAPE

Chrissy runs towards her dad.

CHRISSY (CONT'D): Dad!

Chrissy reaches the armchair.

CHRISSY (CONT'D): Dad?

Mr. Cunningham looks at Chrissy, his eyes and mouth sewn shut. Chrissy screams. Mr. Cunningham tries to scream, but his voice is muffled.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – EDDIE'S ROOM – NIGHT

Eddie opens the box, finding a few tins inside. He picks one up.

EDDIE: Gotcha.

Eddie smiles, putting the box down.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – HALLWAY – NIGHT

Eddie walks out of his room and into the hallway, holding the Special K with a grin.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Found it.

Eddie grins as he walks towards the lounge room.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Peaceful bliss, just moments away.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Eddie looks up as he reaches the kitchen, and his grin fades.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Chrissy?

Chrissy is standing completely still in the lounge room, her eyelids fluttering. Eddie slowly steps towards her. He waves his hand.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Chrissy.

Eddie waves his hand.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Hello?

Eddie does a little jump step towards her before stepping back.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Chrissy.

Chrissy doesn't move. We see that her eyes are white.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Hey, Chrissy, wake up.

Eddie waves his hand.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Hey. Hello?

Eddie clicks his fingers.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Chrissy. Hello?

Eddie waves his hand.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Hey, Chrissy.

The lights start flickering rapidly. Eddie looks around, confused. The bug zapper makes a buzzing sound.

INT. CUNNINGHAM HOUSE – FOYER – CHRISSY'S MINDSCAPE

The lights start flickering. Chrissy walks away from her dad and into the foyer.

VECNA: (distorted) Chrissy?

Chrissy looks up at the stairs to see Vecna walking down them, his steps making squelching sounds. His long fingers tap against the bars. Chrissy turns and runs away. Mr. Cunningham continues to shake, his screams muffled.

INT. CUNNINGHAM HOUSE – DINING ROOM – CHRISSY'S MINDSCAPE

Chrissy runs through the kitchen and comes to the dining room. She looks in disgust at a feast laid out, rotting. Flies buzz around the food. Spiders crawl on it.

VECNA (CONT'D): (distorted) Chrissy.

INT. CUNNINGHAM HOUSE – FOYER – CHRISSY'S MINDSCAPE

Chrissy runs away from the dining room and down a hallway, rounding the corner into the foyer. She opens the front doors to run outside, but finds the doorway boarded up.

CHRISSY: No!

Chrissy tries to pull the slats off the doorway. She bangs her hands on them.

CHRISSY (CONT'D): Help! Help!

Chrissy starts throwing her body against the slats.

CHRISSY (CONT'D): Somebody, help me!

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Eddie claps his hands in front of Chrissy's face.

EDDIE: Time to wake up, okay?

Eddie grabs Chrissy's shoulders and starts tapping them.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Hello? Can you hear me? Wake up, Chrissy.

Eddie starts gently shaking Chrissy.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Chrissy, wake up! I don't like this, Chrissy! Wake up!

INT. CUNNINGHAM HOUSE – FOYER – CHRISSY'S MINDSCAPE

Chrissy throws her body against the slats.

CHRISSY: Help!

VECNA: (distorted) Chrissy.

Chrissy turns around, panting. Vecna's shadow can be seen walking down the hallway.

CHRISSY: No.

Vecna rounds the hallway, turning to face Chrissy. She pushes herself against the slats, terrified. Vecna slowly walks towards her, his steps making squelching sounds. He growls. Chrissy whimpers as he gets closer, knowing they're nowhere to run. She starts to cry, pulling herself away from him. He tilts his head.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Eddie taps Chrissy's cheek.

EDDIE: Chrissy! Chrissy! Chrissy!

Eddie shakes Chrissy.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Chrissy, wake up now! Chrissy!

INT. CUNNINGHAM HOUSE – FOYER – CHRISSY'S MINDSCAPE

Chrissy cries and whimpers. Vecna slowly lifts his hand and wipes a tear from Chrissy's cheek. She pulls away from him.

VECNA: Don't cry, Chrissy.

Chrissy cries, shaking.

VECNA (CONT'D): It's time for your suffering...to end.

Vecna raises his hand, fingers outstretched. It hovers over Chrissy's face as she looks upwards, shaking. Vecna's eyes roll into the back of his head.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

EDDIE: Chrissy!

Eddie stops shaking Chrissy when he realises she's taller than she should be. He looks down to see her feet hovering above the ground and her body getting higher. He quickly lets go, backing away.

EDDIE (CONT'D): What...

Eddie backs away, looking at Chrissy's rising body.

INT. CUNNINGHAM HOUSE – FOYER – CHRISSY'S MINDSCAPE

Vecna pushes his hand over Chrissy's face, his claws digging into her skin.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Chrissy's body is thrown upwards, her back against the ceiling. Eddie jumps back, falling to the ground and knocking over a chair.

EDDIE (CONT'D): Jesus Christ!

Chrissy's arms snap at the elbows and the wrists, followed by her legs at the knees and ankles. Her jaw snaps.

INT. CUNNINGHAM HOUSE – FOYER – CHRISSY’S MINDSCAPE

Vecna’s eyes roll into the back of his head. He digs his fingers into Chrissy’s head, her mouth wide open.

INT. MUNSON TRAILER – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Blood seeps from her eyes down her cheeks, dripping to the ground. Eddie screams in terror. Blood drips from Chrissy’s face. Her eyes get pulled into the back of her head.

Cut to black.

END EPISODE.

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